

## Critics of Sunday opening may be given hours deal

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A compromise allowing shops to open for up to four hours on Sundays is under discussion at the Home Office as a means of appeasing critics of the Shops Bill.

The Government's official position remains that the Bill, which emerged relatively unscathed from the Lords, is to be pushed through in its present form with no surrender to the combined parliamentary, trade union and church opposition.

Senior ministers have made clear that there is no reason for the Cabinet to consider any significant concessions at this stage. The Bill, which lifts restrictions on shopping hours and Sunday trading, has still to come up for its Commons second reading and the scale of Conservative backbench opposition is not yet known, it is argued.

But it is understood that there is considerable doubt within the Home Office over whether the Bill can go through the Commons without serious amendment.

Informed sources say that ministers and officials have been stunned by the scale of opposition; by the beginning of last week, the Government had received about 34,000 letters against the Bill. It is understood that in the Home Office a proposal to allow shops to open for up to four hours is the leading candidate if the Government finds a big concession is necessary.

Ministers, while accepting that the Bill's passage will be tough, said yesterday that it would be wrong to give the impression that the Government had decided upon a preferred concession if events dictated that one was necessary.

In accepting the report of the Auld committee on shopping hours, the Government had accepted its conclusion that all the "halfway houses" which were being canvassed were being unsatisfactory and had therefore gone for deregulation.

It was pointed out that a four-hour only arrangement would have particular practical difficulties. A two-tier system would have to be devised to cater for those shops which already open legally on Sundays and would not want to have their hours reduced and local authorities would have the problem of policing shops.

It is known, however, that among senior figures in the Home Office the four-hour proposal is considered to be superior to another possible concession - that of giving local authorities discretion over the extent of Sunday trading in their areas.

They believe that although it is far less than what the "keep Sunday special" campaigners want, it would take the sting out of the opposition.

The Government is not expected to attempt to reverse the defeat it suffered on an amendment in the Lords giving shopworkers legal protection against being forced to work on Sundays.

The second reading debate could take place next week although pressure of business, including the Budget, may delay it until after Easter.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington, is collecting signatures for an amendment opposing the second reading of a Bill which "fails to preserve the traditional character of Sunday". A Commons motion is also to be tabled shortly.



Mr Ingvar Carlsson (right), the acting Swedish Prime Minister, under police escort in Stockholm yesterday.

## MPs urge more winter aid for aged

By Philip Webster and David Hewson

Senior Conservative MPs are urging the Government to make special provision to help old people cope with the freezing weather.

They have joined opposition politicians in claiming the Government's severe weather payments scheme is inadequate.

Last night Mr Robert MacCrindle, the Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, last night called on the Government to make a special payment, along the lines of the Christmas bonus, to all pensioners who receive supplementary benefit.

He suggested there should be an extra single payment of £5 or £10 to be included with the pension payment due on March 24.

In a letter to Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr MacCrindle said the present scheme was not providing adequate assistance to pensioners to keep their homes warm.

One of the factors deterring old people from using their heating was uncertainty over whether they were in an area cold enough to justify the additional payments.

Outlook: milder, forecast page 32

He suggested that the scheme be scrapped for the rest of the winter and that, without prejudice to a better scheme being devised at leisure, pensioners on supplementary benefit be given a once-and-for-all payment. In that way pensioners would at least know that some help was forthcoming.

But the freezing weather which has gripped Britain for most of the past month is coming to an end.

Weathermen said that the thaw was moving into the north of Scotland yesterday and would reach southern England by Wednesday.

The death toll from the cold spell could top the 2,000 mark for the whole of the month. Death figures issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys showed an increase of 600 a week during the first fortnight of February.

The toll is thought to have been increased later in the month by the deaths of elderly people suffering from hypothermia.

Last month was the second coldest February of this century, with snow falling somewhere in the British Isles every day. The freeze was only beaten by the arctic conditions of 1947.

Heavy frosts were still likely overnight, leaving motorists to face icy roads today.

## Palme's murder 'a jigsaw with very small pieces'

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

The killer of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, was still at large last night, with police baffled by the carefully planned and executed assassination.

The Stockholm police chief, Mr Hans Holmér, described the case as "a jigsaw puzzle with very small pieces". There is, however, one important clue: a 357 calibre bullet fired at Olof Palme's widow, Lisbeth, which has been examined by forensic experts.

Mr Holmér said it was of a very unusual type. It had a copper casing and a lead tip and had been fired from a revolver, probably a Smith and Wesson magnum.

He said it was possible the bullet had been hand-made by a firearms enthusiast. A second bullet, the one which killed Mr Palme, has been extracted from his body, and was being examined last night.

But police still have only a rudimentary description of the assassin: tall, dark-haired, aged 40 to 45, wearing a three-quarter length coat or anorak and carrying a small bag.

Hopes that Mrs Palme might have seen his face faded yesterday as she came out of sedation to reveal that she had caught only a fleeting glimpse of the man.

A couple who saw the assassin as he ran past had little to add. They were interviewed yesterday after Mr Holmér appealed for them to come forward.

Mr Holmér said the murder appeared to have been carefully planned. The killer had kept watch on Mr Palme's flat in Stockholm's Old Town for at least two weeks and had followed the Prime Minister and his wife when they went to the opera.

The indications are that the assassin was working alone and was a Swede or an immigrant who knew Stockholm well. The murder spot was well chosen for a get-away on foot.

Police are, however, not ruling out the assassination might have been the work of international terrorists.

Stockholm City Council said a monument would be erected on the spot where Mr Palme was murdered. It continued to attract hundreds of visitors who threw flowers, mostly red roses, the symbol for social democracy, over a large bloodstain on the icy pavement.

The nation still appeared to be in a state of shock. Weeping men and women filed into government offices in Stockholm to sign a book of condolence for Mr Palme.

After meetings yesterday between Mrs Palme and party officials, she was expected to return to her home in the south.

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## Buy-out move for Land Rover

By Jeremy Warner  
Business Correspondent

The management of Land Rover has submitted a firm bid for the company which is under threat of a takeover by General Motors of the United States.

Financial analysts had been widely sceptical of the management's ability to muster a substantial bid proposal by tomorrow, the government-imposed deadline for firm offers.

But a package has now been put together by Schroder Ventures and three other City institutions which Mr David Andrews, Land Rover's chief executive, believes to be a winning proposal.

A management buy-out would make the company really lean, Mr Andrews said yesterday.

Speaking on Channel Four's *The Business Programme*, Mr Andrews said all the managing directors of the four operating companies were now behind the scheme.

"We are very confident we can make the business really lean. We think it is to our very great advantage to retain control in the United Kingdom so that the decision making processes are made here and not in Pontiac, Michigan," Mr Andrews said.

"We think we will be able to motivate people inside the business much better because part of our deal is to offer the opportunity to all employees to share in the success of the business."

Among other things, the package attempts to lay to rest fears that an independent Land Rover would be unable to raise sufficient capital to ensure future development of new vehicles.

Also promised is the establishment of a distribution network in the United States and elsewhere to match that proposed by General Motors, which is also planning to buy GM's truck division.

Within two years and would continue to use Austin Rover engines and certain of BL's backup services, the proposal says.

The management's ability to come up with a comprehensive package within such a short space of time is an embarrassment to the Government, which may have difficulty in selling BL's loss-making trucks division to General Motors without the bonus of Land Rover.

Figures due to be published this month show that Land Rover made an operating profit of £9 million last year against £2 million the year before, strengthening claims that the company could have a viable independent future ahead of it.

## Tomorrow



## Soft sell at the cinema

The soft drink, car or cigarette used by the star in the latest film is not there by accident. Product placement has become big business for the admen...

## French dressing

Suzy Menkes on why Paris is back in fashion

## Portfolio

Saturday's £20,000 weekly prize in *The Times* Portfolio competition was won by Mr W Underwood, of Stoke Poges, Bucks. Today's daily competition prize is doubled to £4,000 because there was no winner on Saturday. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, page 32.

## Small firm jobs boost

Small businesses have created up to 1.1 million jobs in Britain since 1980, according to a survey by the Small Business Research Trust. Without these jobs, unemployment could have been 25 per cent higher, the trust says. Page 17

## Heart check

Lord Shinwell, the Labour peer, aged 101, was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital, London, on Saturday to have his heart pacemaker checked.

## Miners march

More than 5,000 miners and supporters marched through London yesterday to win reinstatement for 500 men sacked in the miners' strike and freedom for 10 still in prison. Oil threat to coal, page 2

## Liverpool win

Liverpool maintained their challenge for the Football League championship when a last-minute goal by Ian Rush gave them a 2-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur. Page 26

## SPECIAL REPORT

At the start of the Queen's tour of Australia, a special report reviews the country after three years of Labor government under Bob Hawke. Pages 21-24

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## Ulster extremists wield strike power

By Paul Valley

Protestant extremists are attempting to outmanoeuvre the leaders of the two main Unionist parties in Northern Ireland with plans for further action on top of the strike which they hope will paralyse the province today.

Preparations have been made for more disruptive protests than those officially sanctioned by the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Mr James Moynihan, of the larger Official Unionist Party.

Widespread intimidation was being reported throughout the province yesterday and preparations for the blocking of all the main roads were being made.

The move seemed designed to undermine further the authority of the two party leaders who last week met Mrs Thatcher for discussions on the Anglo-Irish agreement and then returned to the province to find their response to the meeting overturned by a joint committee of their two parties.

The people organizing the action agreed on Saturday to extend the strike from 12 to 24 hours without reference to Mr Paisley and Mr Moynihan.

The main weapon in the

Unionists' armoury is the control they hope to exercise over the province's power stations, which they claim will cut supplies in all areas.

Other plans include pickets in Belfast's main shopping precincts and bus stations, car and tractor processions through all the main towns, and picketing of banks in country towns.

Leading article 2

Four distinct levels of power have emerged. At the top are the party leaders whose attempts to negotiate with the Government may well have isolated them from their more hard-line followers.

Immediately beneath them, the strike is being organized by the "1986 Workers' Committee", which includes the two Unionist deputy leaders, Mr Peter Robinson and Mr Harold McCusker.

The next tier is the core of the committee: an inner-committee whose only publicly-known member is the DUP Belfast city councillor, Mr Frank Leslie.

But the strike is being implemented on the ground

Continued on page 2, col 2

## Minister says protest will hit economy

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, last night described today's 24-hour strike in the province as pointless, and again gave a warning that its only outcome would be to damage the economy.

While Mr King travelled to Belfast last night, the organizers of today's action, called to protest against the Anglo-Irish agreement, voiced confidence in their ability to bring Ulster to a halt, with power cuts expected, particularly at peak times.

Mr King and other ministers will be in the province to monitor the situation as it develops, although the Government hopes to be able to take a low-key approach.

It was emphasized last night that the responsibility for law and order belonged to the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

and that protection would be given as far as possible to people deciding to go to work.

Mr King, who said he hoped that there would be no intimidation, told *The Times* that the strike would only have had point if it was to try to break the deadlock. But Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionist Party (OUP), had said last Tuesday that the deadlock was broken, "and that is the truth of it."

He said: "We wish to sit down and talk about the position."

"The strike will achieve nothing except damage to the economy. So far the troubles in Northern Ireland have been kept out of the factories. This strike, if it has a serious effect immediately casts a question mark over the reliability of industry."

Powell support, page 2

## Missing girl's father is questioned

The father of a missing girl, aged six, was interviewed for the third time yesterday as hundreds of people turned up to conduct a search.

Collette Gallagher was last seen when she set out for Our Ladies Infants School, Corby, Northamptonshire, early on Friday morning. Mr Andrew Gallagher, aged 34, her father, was questioned yesterday as the police started a search of a nearby lake.

Det Supt Tony Buckmaster, who is heading the inquiry into Collette's disappearance, said: "Our principal worry is that she may have been abducted but we must look at the ultimate possibility that she has been taken away."

## Ban on alluring brochures

By Cliff Feltham

The use of colour photographs to present companies in their most glamorous and seductive light when they are floated on the Stock Exchange is to be curtailed.

The Stock Exchange is banning the photographs from new issue prospectuses except on the front page. Many recent new issues, particularly in the advertising and publicity industries, have been characterized by documents that look more like promotional brochures than representations of the companies' financial position.

The quotations department of the Stock Exchange has told City issuing houses to concentrate on the words and the figures.

Some prospectuses, often in the leisure field, have looked more like holiday brochures.

The authorities are worried that some investors may be tempted to invest on the strength of the photographs rather than the prospects of the company.

The action appears to have been brought about by a number of issues on the Unlisted Securities Market and in the advertising and publicity industries. The quotations department believes that the prospectus is a legal document. It is prepared to allow illustrations on the front cover but not elsewhere.

Simon and Coates, a broker closely associated with USM flotations, said: "The committee are right in not wanting documents plastered with too

much artwork, but hopefully they will be more relaxed about the front cover."

Some bankers, however, feel that the success of an offer often depends on how it is presented and the sort of public image it is able to achieve.

A number of advertising agencies floated over the past year have used their prospectuses to promote their own work.

But glossy photos are not a prerequisite of a successful float. One company which recently resisted the advice of its publicity men and issued a prospectus without photographs was the pharmaceuticals group, Wellcome. The issue was hugely successful.

## Oil price slide wipes out tax cut hopes

A no-change Budget without big cuts in income tax is expected after the latest fall in oil prices.

North Sea oil prices dipped below \$14 a barrel at the end of last week, wiping out the Chancellor's remaining scope for substantial cuts in income tax in the Budget in two weeks' time.

The Chancellor has accepted the need to support the pound by presenting a "neutral" Budget. However, several job measures are likely to be brought together into a Budget-day "employment package" and income tax cuts are pencilled in for 1987.

Going for jobs, page 12  
Details, page 17

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# Baker rejects calls to close Sellafield plant after latest leak

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

After the fourth leak in five weeks at the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria, the Government said yesterday there was no case for closing the site.

It was the most serious of the accidental discharges in the past five weeks. The material escaped through a seal of synthetic compound.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, defended British Nuclear Fuels in the television programme *This Week Next* on Saturday.

"This is the most regulated industry in the country. Fifteen Acts of Parliament relate to this industry," he said.

"There are 150 inspectors, both inside the plants and outside. Very minor incidents have to be reported. They should not be exaggerated. And you cannot build up a case for closing the plant (Sellafield)."

But Dr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman for the environment, whose constituency includes Sellafield, said discharges from the plant to the Irish Sea should be stopped.

He said there should be better management in the

industry. "No one can accept the sequence of accidents of the last few weeks in any industry," he said.

He also clashed with Mr Baker over secrecy. Dr Cunningham suggested that the use of the Official Secrets Act to cover the civil nuclear energy industry was an obstacle to public understanding, and he suggested it should go.

Pressure has increased for the halt of the chemical reprocessing of nuclear fuel at Sellafield after the leak on Saturday.

The Greenpeace organization and Friends of the Earth are proposing that the spent fuel rods, from atomic power stations, be kept intact.

The material would be stored for a "cooling" period of 20 or more years, until the bulk of the radioactive by-products created in the operation of a nuclear reactor decayed.

The opponents of reprocessing have been joined by other voices. The European Parliament has called for Sellafield to be closed. And the influential weekly magazine, *New Scientist*, in its latest issue, has called for a halt.

An immediate investigation of the incident this weekend has begun by scientists from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. They were already on site. A team of 16 had begun an audit last Thursday of the management of Sellafield because of the previous leak.

In the latest incident 12 workers were in the immediate and adjacent areas. The company, British Nuclear Fuels, said five of them had been contaminated on the skin.

All the workers are undergoing more detailed monitoring in case they have inhaled any material. It will take several days to obtain those results.

The leak happened in a special cubicle of a building referred to as B277, where plutonium and uranium oxide powders are handled. Those substances are contained in a cabinet and separated from workers by a glass screen.

There are no natural sources of plutonium. The element is formed during the nuclear chain reaction in uranium fuel elements in power stations. The plutonium is extracted by reprocessing.



More than 1,000 Land Rovers and their owners from all over Britain gathered at Battersea Park, London, yesterday before driving in convoy to Downing Street as part of the campaign to keep the company British.

## Crops hit worst by cold winds

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Winter-sown crops in the main arable areas of eastern England have been badly damaged by the prolonged spell of bitter, desiccating winds and the absence of snow to protect them from frosts.

Mr Edmund Brown, a crop husbandry specialist at Framlingham, Norfolk, describes the position as critical. Oilseed rape, which was planted later than usual because of the wet summer and delayed harvest, is in many places a write-off, he says.

Although the full extent of the damage cannot be assessed until the ground thaws, Mr Brown believes that many wheat and barley fields will have to be reseeded in the spring. The difficulties are likely to be compounded by a shortage of cereal seed.

"In many ways it has been worse than in the other cold winters of 1947 and 1963, when there was much more snow around," he says.

The National Farmers' Union is playing down suggestions of a crisis. Leeks and root vegetables cannot be harvested at present, and cauliflower and spring greens have suffered damage, but there are plenty of potatoes and other vegetables from store, and at this time of year imports normally take a large share of the market.

The freezing spell has, however, brought extra work for livestock farmers, with the constant chore of supplying feed to animals left out to winter and breaking ice on drinking troughs.

## Ban on The Times faces court test

By a Staff Reporter

The refusal of certain public libraries to display copies of *The Times* and other News International publications may be challenged in the courts by a barrister who was denied access to the newspaper's law reports.

Mr John Riley, who has chambers in Birmingham, was refused permission to see the newspaper in Lichfield public library because of a ban by Staffordshire County Council. Although its libraries continue to take the newspaper it is not being displayed out of sympathy with the 5,000 print workers who have been dismissed in the dispute over the transfer of the four News International titles to the new print works at Wapping in east London.

A number of other councils are operating similar bans which the Prime Minister last week condemned as tantamount to censorship. The prohibition also covers *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *The Times Educational Supplement* and *Literary Supplement*.

Mr Riley, a former Labour councillor, described the ban as petty censorship and said that if the council did not lift it he would consider an application to the courts to have the ban declared unlawful under section seven of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

More than 2,000 protesters joined the pickets at the Wapping plant on Saturday night during the printing of *The Sunday Times* and *News of the World*. Three police officers were injured in the demonstration during which 32 arrests were made for public order offences.

Yesterday a management spokesman said that some lateness occurred because of heavy picketing, but that all deliveries had been made. *The Sunday Times* sent out 1,385,000 copies and the *News of the World* 5,317,000, complete print runs of both papers.

News International is waiting for the TUC to fix a time for a meeting between them, he said.

## Ex-killer chosen as minister

The Rev James Nelson, a convicted murderer, was yesterday chosen as minister for two churches. It is the first time that the Church of Scotland has chosen a convicted killer as a minister.

Mr Nelson was convicted in 1970, then aged 24, of murdering his mother by hitting her with a wooden baton and a brick.

Yesterday morning he preached in both Chapelhall and Calderbank churches in Lanarkshire, and after the services the congregation voted by 283 to 76 in his favour.

Mr Nelson was convicted in 1970, then aged 24, of murdering his mother by hitting her with a wooden baton and a brick.

Yesterday morning he preached in both Chapelhall and Calderbank churches in Lanarkshire, and after the services the congregation voted by 283 to 76 in his favour.

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## Workers unhappy with way unions represent them, poll claims

By David Hewson

Trade union members are increasingly unhappy with the way their unions represent them, a poll published yesterday claims.

The survey, produced by MORI for industry, was the first in a number of topical reports by the Association of Market Survey Organizations, shows that 48 per cent of workers, and 43 per cent of trade union members, believe their organizations are controlled by a few extremists and militants.

The percentage of shop-floor workers who thought their interests were being well looked after by their shop stewards had fallen from 70 per cent 10 years ago to 57 per cent today, and only 42 per cent believed their national executive cared about them.

The survey showed that members tend to belong to a trade union not for political power, but for job security. Among all workers, 52 per cent thought that the unions still had too much power in Britain in spite of changes in the law, and 42 per cent of trade union members agreed.

But 58 per cent of workers believed that unions were essential to protect workers' interests.

There was widespread op-

### Trade union to run TV advert

A trade union will make British broadcasting history today when it starts advertising its services on television in seven 10-second "jingles" costing £10,000.

The advertisement by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Britain's largest union, will go out each night until Sunday at peak viewing time to Granada TV viewers in the north-west of England.

position to the principle of the closed shop. Only 17 per cent of workers thought everyone who works should have to belong to a union, and even among union members only 32 per cent believed that union membership should be compulsory.

But most workers did not believe that trade unions were the main cause of the country's economic difficulties.

And the poll showed that workers felt that their immediate boss was almost as likely to look after their interests as much as their shop steward.

A total of 57 per cent believed their interests were being well looked after by their

local union representative, 56 per cent by their immediate boss, 42 per cent by their union national executive, 34 per cent by top management, 19 per cent by their local MP, and 9 per cent by the Government.

There was widespread support for secret ballots of union members concerning a range of issues.

More than 80 per cent of union members, and three-quarters of general workers, supported ballots before strikes, 78 per cent of workers wanted them for the election of union officials, and 69 per cent on closed shop agreements.

The idea of accepting wage reductions to ensure continued employment was attractive to only 4 per cent of shop-floor workers in manufacturing and construction.

A total of 14 per cent rated their company as "one of the best", 20 per cent "above average", 52 per cent "average", 6 per cent "below average" and 5 per cent "one of the worst".

The survey was based upon 1,019 manual workers and managers in the manufacturing, mining, and construction industries and in the service sector, including government.

## Move to save wild flowers

More than 300 of Britain's wild flowers are threatened with extinction (Our Horticulture Correspondent writes).

To focus attention on this and to campaign for better management of wild-flower habitats such as roadside verges, the Royal Society of Nature Conservation's British wild life appeal is organizing a wild flower week on May 17-26.

The week will begin with a sponsored celebrities' wild flower walk, started by Mr David Bellamy, the botanist.

This will leave the Stoke Garden Festival on May 17 and, passing through many wild flower reserves, will arrive during the opening of the Chelsea Flower Show on May 20.

Other events around the

country will include exhibitions.

A wild life garden is being created at the Stoke Garden Festival (May 17 to October 26) and there will be a display called Wild Flowers Are Wonderful at the Chelsea show.

The RSN, in association with the Ford Motor Company, is producing a booklet, *Wild Flowers on the Verge*.

## Office use of VDUs 'soon 50%

More than half Britain's workforce will regularly be using visual display units within four years, according to the TUC today.

It points out that 1.25 million VDUs are in use in Britain and that sales of word processors, personal computers and larger systems continue at a rapid rate.

The TUC says that as a result of research confirming that some health problems are frequently encountered among VDU workers, it publishes today a handbook that sets out guidelines for the safe use of the equipment.

The aim of the guidelines is to assist safety representatives and other union officials in their negotiations with employers on the introduction and use of VDUs.

The TUC is particularly keen to avoid intensive VDU work and to limit the total time spent on such work.

British industry is so dependent on computers that computer failure could ruin companies, an international insurance specialist expert says.

According to Stewart Wrightson, the international insurance brokers, many companies depend on computers for the day-to-day running of their business to such an extent that a computer system interruption of more than a few hours could bring a company close to collapse.

## Proposals for law reform this week

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Far-reaching changes in the criminal justice system to make it more effective in bringing criminals to book will be proposed by the Government in a White Paper on Thursday.

The main ingredients of the mixed package of reforms are:

- Changes in the extradition laws to stop the United Kingdom being used as a haven by international criminals;
- The abolition of trial by jury for certain minor offences to ease crown court congestion;
- Options for curbing a defendant's right to challenge jurors without reason;
- Options for tackling over-lenient sentences by judges.

The reforms to the extradition laws will include a relaxation of the present legal rule which makes it difficult for foreign courts to get alleged offenders out of Britain.

In return, it is hoped that other countries will take steps to return British fugitives.

The White Paper will also outline changes in the present system of trial by jury. It wants to abolish the right to jury trial in the case of some minor offences, such as common assault and driving while disqualified.

Proposals to curb the controversial peremptory challenge, or right to challenge jurors, will also be put forward in the form of options. These options are expected

to range from complete abolition of the peremptory challenge, to reducing the present right of three challenges to one.

The White Paper will suggest that complete abolition be matched by an expansion in the right to challenge for cause, or giving a reason.

Finally the White Paper is expected to put forward three options for tackling over-lenient sentences in the face of concern by some backbenchers.

Last year the Government was forced to withdraw a proposal that the Court of Appeal should be able to review allegedly over-lenient sentences referred to it by the prosecution, and to make a statement of opinion, because of parliamentary opposition.

That same proposal will be one of three options canvassed in the White Paper. A second option will be the same proposal but with "teeth". The Court of Appeal would be able to increase the sentence if it thought it was too lenient and not be confined just to a statement of opinion.

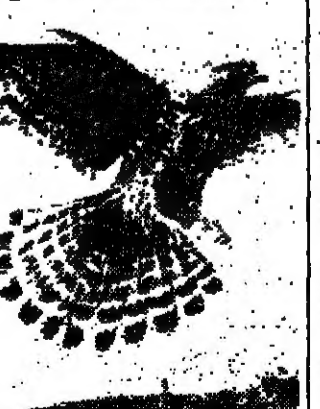
Third, the White Paper will suggest that sentencing by judges be made more consistent. This would be done by codifying the practice directions of the Lord Chief Justice into a "guide book" for judges, perhaps with statutory backing.

## Plea to save merlins

Merlin falcons are the only bird of prey whose numbers are falling in the United Kingdom, according to the latest issue of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' magazine, *Birds*.

The society is calling for action to ensure that the merlin's upland habitat is not destroyed by farming and forestry. It wants the Government to support the Agriculture Bill which would allow large areas of land to be designated environmentally sensitive areas.

The Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission have drawn up a list of 18 such areas, including the Cambrian mountains and Orkney. The merlin population in Britain is about 600



The merlin falcon, whose numbers are falling.

pairs; 350 pairs in Scotland, 200 in northern England and 50 in Wales.

## Britons under 24 keen to travel in space

Six out of 10 young Britons would travel in space if they had the chance and the idea is twice as popular with men, according to a holiday survey out today.

What Britons do and spend on holiday are contained in the survey conducted by Gallup for American Express.

It shows that enthusiasm for space travel is affected by age: 63 per cent of those aged 16 to 24 would go, compared with 16 per cent of the 65-plus group.

More than 16 million British adults are likely to take a foreign holiday this year, 2.6 million more than last year.

explain our situation in great detail.

"We have notice boards explaining that we don't receive state aid."

More than 1,000 free passes have been issued to local people and the Cathedral Friends, its supporters' club.

"No charges are made at the cathedral on Sundays. A side chapel for prayers is available free of charge throughout the week," Canon Green said.

More than £5 million has to be found for the upkeep and restoration of the cathedral during the next 10 years. An international fund-raising campaign is to be launched.



## Retirement at 70 proposed for GPs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Proposals to make family doctors retire at the age of 70, to make it easier for patients to change doctors and to find out what services local doctors offer are to be put forward in the Government's Green Paper on the future of family practitioner services.

Ministers are to propose that GPs should move towards a performance-related contract, where those who undertake preventive work and achieve high rates of vaccination, immunization and screening, would receive more pay. There would also be incentives to encourage younger doctors to move to inner-city areas.

The Green Paper, first promised for October 1984, is expected to appear about Easter. But ministers are emphasizing that it will be an "agenda for discussion" rather than a firm plan of action.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Ser-

vices, and the other health ministers are likely to hold public meetings to encourage patients to say what they want.

Ultimately, there are likely to be changes in family doctors' contracts, but ministers are anxious to avoid a confrontation with the medical profession near a general election. They believe the threat of the Green Paper has already led to changes and want to take advantage of the mood in the medical profession without uniting doctors against them.

The Green Paper is likely, however, to pick up initiatives from the Royal College of General Practitioners which is keen to see a performance-related contract introduced to encourage GPs to provide better services. Ministers may press for GPs to be allowed, in effect, to advertise their services, to encourage competition.

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## Government will not contribute to safety at football grounds

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A government working party, set up after the Bradford City fire disaster to organize the financing of football ground improvements, has been quietly wound up without the Government having to contribute to the multi-million-pound cost.

The decision, so far unannounced, marks a victory for the Government, and particularly the Prime Minister, over the football authorities.

After the Valley Parade disaster last May there were calls from the Football Association and the Football League, backed by opposition parties, for government help for financing the upgrading of standards which was ordered for all Football League grounds.

But Mrs Thatcher argued strongly at several Downing Street meetings that the game itself had the capacity to find more money.

The working party, chaired by Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, and involving several government departments and the football authorities, is considered by the Government to have a role no longer.

The authorities pressed until the last the need for government help but, according to a working party source, were in the end outmanoeuvred by the Government.

According to the source, it was a suggestion from Mr Tracey that the FA should consider organizing sponsor-

ship for the FA Cup competition, a suggestion it regards with horror, before asking for money from the Government that finally led it to admit defeat.

A decision before Christmas to allow the clubs five years to complete the improvements, while keeping unsafe parts of their grounds closed, has enabled the Government to say that the clubs should complete the programme with considerable help from the Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

Each year it gives £4 million from the spot-the-ball competitions for safety work.

Its allied organization, the Football Trust, will soon announce a £300,000 scheme to help the big non-League clubs.

## Jobless build 'own' hall

Community enterprise has a long tradition in Glasgow. The pioneering work in the 1970s by Mr Jim Johnson and his colleagues in the architectural co-operative, Assist, on rehabilitating tenement blocks with the help of tenants has been widely copied (Charles Knevitt writes).

For the past four years Mr Andy Jack, an Assist architect, has been working with

Spittal Tenants Community Association in the Glasgow suburb of Rutherglen. Their community hall, serving an estate of 850 houses, opens this summer with the help of a £50,000 grant from Glasgow District Council and Labour provided through the Manpower Services Commission.

The project is one of the 33 entries short-listed in The Times/RIBA Community Enterprise Scheme. It was visited by the assessors at the weekend.

Mrs Margaret Deans, secretary of the association, said that positive discrimination had been used in selecting MSC labour from the surrounding area.

Mr Kenny Waters, the site manager, said but he has had considerable success in finding permanent jobs for them.

## Spray attack on police

Thirty-six policemen suffered irritation to the eyes, nose and throat when they were attacked by football supporters armed with canisters at Southampton.

Hampshire Police said that it was not known what the policemen were sprayed with. None was seriously hurt.

The incident happened when 750 Manchester United supporters broke down two gates as they surged out of Southampton's stadium. The Dell, shortly before the end of Saturday's First Division match.

## Girl murdered after disco

The parents of a girl aged 16 who was found strangled and sexually assaulted early yesterday morning in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, were travelling from their home in Liverpool last night to identify their daughter's body.

The girl, who had been living in the resort, was on her way home from a discotheque when she was attacked.

## Militant fails

Mr Ben Lucas, aged 23, a Liverpool University student who supports the soft left, was elected leader of the Labour Students Organizations on Saturday, defeating a Militant

## Australia independent at last

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra



A smiling Queen accepts bouquets from Australian children during a walkabout on her arrival in Canberra.

The Queen yesterday left traditional Maori insults and political brouhaha in New Zealand and arrived in Canberra for a 12-day visit which, for all Australia's reputation for belligerent egalitarianism, is unlikely to be touched by the same kind of controversy.

Her first official duty was to grant Australians the full independence from Britain which many thought they had decades ago.

In a simple ceremony at Government House here, attended by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet, the Queen signed a proclamation activating from today the Australia Acts of 1986, recently passed by the British and Federal Parliaments.

The Acts remove the residual — and by general agreement outdated — legislative, executive and judicial fetters which could be imposed from Britain.

The unbanning by Australia of such control has been a process which started with the effective granting of self-government in 1901 — when colonies like Victoria and New South Wales federated as a nation — and continued through the 1930s but which is only now complete.

The final phase, which started more than a decade ago, was delayed as much by a certain weariness in various state parliaments at the prospect of losing further authority to Canberra as by reluctance in Westminster to approve it.

The most significant change in practical terms is abolition of the right of appeal to the Privy Council. The view has been widely held in legal circles for years here that it was intolerable for a foreign body to have overriding legal

jurisdiction in Australia, and henceforth the High Court is the final judicial authority.

The Act also scraps powers which British governments have in theory retained but in effect not exercised for years, as a link between state governments in Australia and the Crown.

The New Zealand tour was incidentally filled to the end. On Saturday three women in their early twenties exposed their buttocks to the Queen as she was being driven to a garden party in Christchurch.

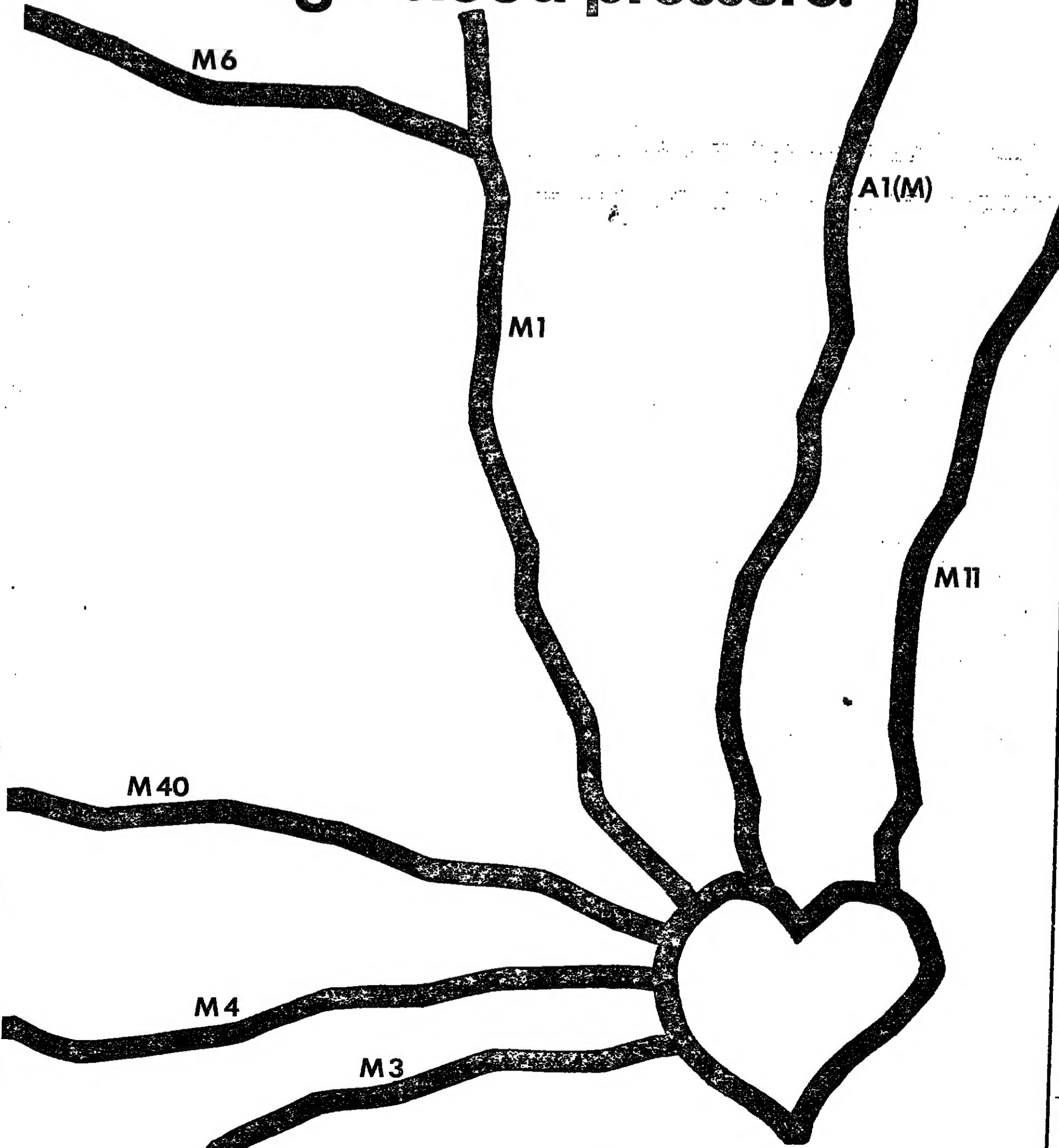
The *Whakapohane*, as this traditional Maori gesture is known, was clearly seen by the Queen, and was the second time on the tour that she and the Duke of Edinburgh had been confronted by protesters in this way. She was also hit by an egg thrown by a young woman and encountered a number of demonstrations.

For all the attention these protests have attracted, it would be a mistake to imagine that New Zealand — arguably the most ardently royalist of all Commonwealth countries — has undergone some dramatic metamorphosis. The demonstrators were invariably in small groups and generally representative of fringe political groups.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, clearly testy at the coverage the incidents have attracted in the British media, said to British journalists on Saturday: "She is the Queen of New Zealand. I don't remember complaining when a man got into her bedroom at Buckingham Palace. I wish you people would look after her as well as we do in New Zealand".

Special Report, pages 21-24

## Blocked arteries give businessmen high blood pressure.



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## Dingo baby mother breaks down on TV

Sydney (Reuters) — The convicted baby-killer, Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, repeatedly broke down yesterday as she insisted in her first television interview since her release from jail that her nine-week-old daughter was snatched by a dingo.

Mrs Chamberlain, aged 38, whose bizarre case has gripped Australia, was freed on February 9 after serving three years of a life sentence for killing her baby, Azaria, in 1980.

She said she would fight to clear her name and those of her family and witnesses who said Azaria was taken by a dingo from a camp site at remote Ayers Rock.

After new evidence was found relating to her baby's death, Mrs Chamberlain was freed, but the authorities said that her conviction would stand pending the outcome of a new inquiry.

Mrs Chamberlain, who showed an apparent detachment during her marathon murder trial, spoke emotionally about what her conviction had done to her family.

"To see my children's reactions, to watch my father go grey, nothing will pay for that, not ever, and that makes me extremely angry," she said.

Mrs Chamberlain, who has three other children, said there was no way she could have killed her daughter, whose body was never found.



Mrs Lindy Chamberlain: vows to clear name.

Asked why she did not pretend she killed her daughter in a state of post-natal depression, she said: "Why should I pretend that I had done something I didn't do?"

The evidence which triggered her release was the discovery of a tattered jacket she identified as the one Azaria wore on the night she went missing.

Her supporters say that the jacket, still under forensic study, proved that Azaria was wearing it on the night she disappeared, a fact body contested by the prosecution during Mrs Chamberlain's trial.

The interview was shown on a channel controlled by the media tycoon Mr Kerry Packard, whose Consolidated Press Group is reported by local newspapers to have paid £125,000 for exclusive interviews with the Chamberlains.

## Seven die in Tamil ambush

Colombo (AFP, Reuters) — Tamil militants in Sri Lanka killed five soldiers and two Sinhalese farmers in an attack yesterday in the Vavuniya district, about 160 miles north of here.

The soldiers were guarding the farmers as they moved their harvest from a paddy field when the Tamils blew up their vehicles with a remote control landmine. Seven other farmers were seriously injured.

A ban on fishing in Sri Lanka's northern territorial waters went into effect yesterday after the Government accused Tamil separatists of ferrying arms and trained terrorists from southern India. Informal sources here said the Government was planning to spend 300 million rupees (£8 million) on buying new naval patrol vessels for use in the Palk Strait separating India and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka launched a diplomatic campaign to defend itself against Indian accusations of genocide. The acting Foreign Minister, Mr Tyrone Fernando, announced that he would meet envoys from 10 countries today to brief them on Sri Lanka's view of the dispute.

## London to share chess fight

Lucerne (Reuters) — A rematch between the new world chess champion, Gary Kasparov, and the challenger and former world champion, his fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov, will be held in London and Leningrad from July 28, the International Chess Federation announced here.

The first 12 games will be played in Britain and the remaining 12 in the Soviet Union, the statement said.

The decision to hold the competition in two centres was made despite the ruling body's wish for the whole match to be in London, it added.

The federation's president, Mr Florencio Campomanes, dismissed reports that his organization had been engaged in a power struggle with the Soviet Chess Federation. A London financing problem had been resolved, he said.

Because of the long time taken to decide on the venue there was barely enough time to complete preparations for the tournament.

## China's first bankrupt

Peking (Reuters) — A factory in the north-eastern city of Shenyang will become the first firm to go bankrupt in China since 1949, the Peking Review magazine said yesterday.

It said the unnamed factory, one of three in Shenyang that were warned last August to put their houses in order, had failed to do so and would have to auction its assets to pay off creditors. Its employees would

be listed as "waiting for work", the official term for unemployment. About 3.6 million are so listed.

The magazine said Shenyang was the first city in China to take such a "daring" measure, with the country's first bankruptcy law due to be approved this year. Bankruptcy is a sensitive topic in China, where the government is committed to full employment.



## The assassination of Olof Palme

## Bitter awakening for Sweden

From Christopher Mosey  
Stockholm

The murder of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, may end a remarkable openness in the upper echelons of Swedish political life.

Foreign correspondents here were always amazed at the ease with which one could contact leading politicians and frequently encounter them about town without bodyguards.

Only last year I was one of three journalists who had an impromptu interview with the former Defence Minister, Mr Anders Thunborg, on a street corner near the Foreign Ministry. There was no sign of security.

Mr Palme, walking apparently unguarded from his home in the Old Town round the Houses of Parliament on Holy Ghost Island, to his offices in Rosenbad a few hundred yards away, was a familiar sight. He would raise a hand and call the traditional Swedish greeting "Hej".

When his successor, Mr Ivar Carlsson, went walking in Stockholm at the weekend he was surrounded by tall, thick-set security men wearing overcoats which bulged ominously at the shoulders.

With the death of its leader, Sweden has been propelled into the harsh reality of the modern world. All the "it couldn't happen here" talk is now a thing of the past. A leading article in yesterday's *Dagens Nyheter*, Sweden's



A Stockholm boy struggles to write his name in the condolence book for Mr Palme.

main daily newspaper, said: "The picture of Sweden as a protected corner of the world, safe in its lack of social division, has several times previously been disturbed when political violence has touched our land."

"But what happened on the

nights of Friday and Saturday has no parallel and has suddenly made our own existence feel more uncertain."

Among the general public there is shock and grave concern that Mr Palme was allowed to go out late at night unprotected. The national po-

lice chief, Mr Holger Romander, the man ultimately responsible for the Prime Minister's safety, said: "We can't plague ourselves with guilt and regret over what has happened. We couldn't have acted in any other way. Olof Palme wanted to be left in

peace in his private life, without bodyguards.

"It was the Government and Mr Palme who decided on security concerning the Prime Minister and top civil servants. We obeyed them and serve them," he said. "Mr Palme wanted great personal freedom but, of course, we explained to him the risks he was running."

Mr Romander said that security had been increased for all ministers. "How comprehensive this is we naturally cannot say, but it is considerable."

Mr Sven-Ake Hjalmarth, chief of Sapo, the Swedish secret police, held anxious discussions with Mr Palme in 1982 over what he saw as lax security. But it took several months, said Mr Hjalmarth, before Mr Palme would accept a regular bodyguard.

However, since 1983, when anonymous threats were made against Mr Palme's life, two Sapo bodyguards have always been in attendance at public appearances by the Prime Minister.

Mr Palme always agreed to keep Sapo informed of his movements. There was one tragic exception. "On Friday evening he didn't do so," said Mr Hjalmarth. "Mr Palme said he thought he would be home throughout the evening, so surveillance was withdrawn."

Obituary, page 14

## The successor

## Mystery man takes helm

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Ivar Carlsson, the man who has stepped out of the giant shadow cast by Mr Olof Palme, Sweden's assassinated leader, to become the country's Prime Minister-designate, is something of a mystery even to those who knew him well.

Putting flesh on the bare bones of a brief official Social Democratic Party biography is a difficult task simply because Mr Carlsson has always chosen to remain very much in the background.

He was born into a working-class family in the Swedish textile town of Borås in 1934, attended a commercial high school and then went on to take an MA in political science at the University of Lund in 1958.

From 1958 to 1960 he was, like Mr Palme, one of the group of bright young men working with the then Prime Minister, Tage Erlander. He spent a year studying in

the United States and in 1961 returned to Sweden to become chairman of the Social Democratic Youth Movement.

At the age of 31 he was elected MP, and three years later graduated to the post of Under-Secretary in the Cabinet Office.

In 1969, the year Mr Palme took over the leadership, Mr Carlsson was appointed Minister of Education. In 1973 he was made Minister of Housing.

In 1976, when the Social Democrats lost power after 44 years in office, Mr Palme gave Mr Carlsson the job of orchestrating a return to power, coupled with the task of drawing up a master plan to put the economy on a sound footing.

When the party returned to power in 1982, Mr Carlsson received his reward. He became Deputy Prime Minister, and as Mr Palme's personal trouble-shooter occupied himself with a study of possible

future strategies for Swedish society.

These were aimed at relieving the Social Democrats from accusations of totalitarian trends. This was him, the popular title of "Minister of the Future".

After a second election victory last year, Mr Palme gave him the new, official title of Minister of the Environment in an attempt to woo Sweden's "Green" movement.

Mr Carlsson is described by those who know him as a workaholic and a highly professional — although somewhat colourless — politician.

However, while his public appearances have done little to set the house on fire, Mr Carlsson has been known to give humorous speeches at party congresses.

After March 12 when, if all goes well, he will be officially sworn in as Prime Minister, he may start to assert himself as he steps out of Mr Palme's shadow.

## Countdown to murder

## The killer who lurked in the shadows

From Our Correspondent, Stockholm

The man who killed Mr Olof Palme waited in the shadows outside the block of luxury flats where the Swedish Prime Minister lived in Stockholm's Old Town, according to the police version of events.

When Mr Palme and his wife, Lisbet, left the house at 8.40 pm (7.40pm GMT) on Friday, the assassin followed them. They walked for five minutes through cobbled streets, to the Old Town underground station, boarded a northbound train and got off three stops further on at Radmansgatan station.

They then walked a few hundred yards to the Grand Cinema, arriving just before 9pm. The assassin watched through the glass doors as the Palmes met their 24-year-old son, Marten, and his girlfriend in the foyer, bought tickets and went into the cinema to see *The Brothers Mozart*, a new Swedish film.

He waited either inside or outside — the police are not sure — until the film ended at 11.10 pm. Then he followed as the four people walked a block northwards along Sveavägen, the capital's main thoroughfare.

There Mr and Mrs Palme said goodbye to their son and his girlfriend and crossed to the other side of Sveavägen, the assassin close behind them.

Mr Palme dropped a few

paces behind his wife and, at 11.20 pm at the junction with Tunnelgatan, a pedestrian street, the assassin seized his chance.

He pulled a revolver from the pocket of his coat and fired a copper-plated, lead-tipped bullet into the Prime Minister's back. The bullet severed Mr Palme's aorta.

As Mrs Palme turned to ask her husband why someone was letting off fireworks, the assassin fired again. The second bullet passed through Mrs Palme's clothes, grazing her slightly, and ended up on the opposite side of Sveavägen.

The assassin then turned and ran down Tunnelgatan, pursued by a man who was passing by.

He scrambled up a dimly lit flight of 86 steps to Malmkillnadsgatan, a street frequented by drug addicts, prostitutes and their clients.

Then he disappeared into a maze of small streets to reappear on Birger Jarlgatan, a main road running parallel with Sveavägen, near Alexandra's, Stockholm's trendy night spot. The man who had set off in pursuit lost the killer somewhere on route.

Miss Anna Hage, a 17-year-old trainee nurse, who rushed from a car to give first aid to the Prime Minister, tried heart massage because she could feel no pulse. "His heart started beating again briefly but then stopped," she said.

## World reaction

## Tributes from East and West

By Our Foreign Staff

Messages of sympathy poured into Sweden, underlining Mr Palme's international role as an advocate of Third World causes and an opponent of nuclear arms.

In the United States, President Reagan said: "My sorrow in the face of this senseless act of violence is profound. Olof

Palme was one of the world's most respected leaders, a man who made compassion the hallmark of Swedish policy."

In the Soviet Union, the head of the KGB, Mr Viktor Chebrikov, told the Communist Party congress that Mr Palme was "a world-known fighter for peace". The congress observed a minute of silence in his memory.

The Pope told King Carl Gustaf that after hearing about the assassination he prayed that mankind would "renounce all acts of hate".

In Britain, Mrs Margaret Thatcher described Mr Palme as a great international figure who would be "grievously missed". The Queen sent a message to the Swedish King expressing shock.

Mr Palme dropped a few

## Bonn asks the Jews to forgive

Duisburg, West Germany (AP) — President Richard von Weizsäcker yesterday asked Jews to forgive a recent spate of anti-Semitic remarks by West German officials.

In a speech to about 4,000 people, Herr von Weizsäcker said the remarks had wounded Jews in West Germany and around the world.

"I ask for forgiveness from them. We cannot excuse these statements. They are irreconcilable with our view of people and democratic humanism, with history, and with the honour of our people."

Herr von Weizsäcker made his speech to mark the annual "Brotherhood Week" begun in 1951 to underline the need for reconciliation with Jews.

The controversial statements have led to a debate on whether anti-Semitism is emerging again in Germany.

## Angry Brazilians loot shops

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — Angry customers looted three supermarkets here and mobs tried to ransack three others in São Paulo after prices were raised despite a government-decreed price freeze.

The freeze was ordered on Friday as part of a sweeping anti-inflation programme announced by President Sarney. Measures also included a wage freeze and a new currency, the cruzado, to replace the cruzeiro.

Price increases in supermarkets and snack bars were reported all over Brazil on Friday, and Rio de Janeiro police were reported to have arrested 27 store managers.

Dozens of angry customers completely demolished the inside of a hamburger restaurant in central Rio after prices were increased. Police armed with machine-guns broke up the mob by firing shots in the air.

Senator Sarney said that the price freeze would last indefinitely and that violators could be thrown in jail. It was not clear under what law they would be prosecuted or what the penalties would be.

During the 11 months that President Sarney's civilian Government has ruled in Brazil, the economy has boomed, with one of the highest growth rates in the world last year. Workers have enjoyed a sharp increase in purchasing power for the first time in years and unemployment has fallen. But the price paid has been continuing high inflation.

"To continue blindly towards an inflation rate of 500 or 600 per cent would only lead to recession, unemployment and falling salaries," said the Finance Minister, Senator Dilson Funaro. The Government says it expects monthly inflation to fall to zero this month, from 14.4 per cent in February.

Unions criticized the decision to adjust wages only annually, despite the granting of an immediate increase to all

workers and a guarantee of further increases should prices rise by 20 per cent. Bank workers have called an indefinite protest strike from today.

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## Pretoria defied by pastor

Cape Town (AFP, Reuters) — A West German Lutheran, Pastor Gottfried Kraatz, ordered to leave South Africa by last Friday for "dubious actions against the authorities", preached in Athlone suburb here yesterday.

Meanwhile, police reported shooting a man dead when he stoned their vehicle near Durban, and said another man was killed by a burning tyre "necklace" in a township near Robertson in the Western Cape.

## Drugs seized

Dubai (Reuters) — Two Belgians, the British wife of one of them, a Dutchman and a Pakistani were arrested when police here seized 2.5 tonnes of hashish in what they said was the biggest single drugs haul in the Gulf.

## Donkey quest

Mrs Betty Svensen, founder of the donkey sanctuary near Sidmouth, Devon, will spend a fortnight treating 2,300 ailing donkeys against parasites and sleeping sickness on Lamu, off the Kenyan coast. They are the island's only form of transport.

## Fraud charge

Mr Joseph Wilkins of Gloucestershire, who faces charges involving £250,000 in counterfeit Bank of England £50 notes, is to be extradited to Britain from Gibraltar.

## Kennedy date

New York (AP) — Miss Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the former US President, is to marry Mr Edwin Schlossberg, a designer

## Murder of Palestinian halts bid for peace

Continued from page 1

undermining efforts to bring peace to the area. "This shows that anyone who is prepared to talk to us is likely to sign his own death sentence," a Foreign Ministry source said.

Mr al-Masri was also the kind of Palestinian King Hussein of Jordan has been asking to come forward in place of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Sayid* at the weekend, the King said that Palestinians "will have to choose another leadership". He promised to stand by "a Palestinian leadership that represents the people and

appreciates the cause responsibly."

Mr al-Masri, whose nephew is the present Jordanian Foreign Minister, has never been close to the PLO, although he made it clear that he would never negotiate with Israel without the organization's blessing. Last month, after King Hussein announced that he was ending political co-operation with the PLO, Mr al-Masri said: "It is impossible to achieve any settlement without the PLO and any attempt of this kind will not bring about a just and durable peace to the region."

For all their present difficulties, the Jordanian Government and the PLO both issued

statements yesterday in Amman condemning the assassination. The Jordanian Government said that it was "an act which aids Israeli crimes". By preventing negotiation, the statement said, it helped the spread of Judaism in the occupied territories.

Mr Hanna Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper *al-Fajr*, is another Palestinian who does not believe in violence and has already been accepted by the United States and Israel as a potential member of the delegation which could negotiate a settlement. "This is not going to stop Palestinians from seeking a peaceful solution," he said yesterday.

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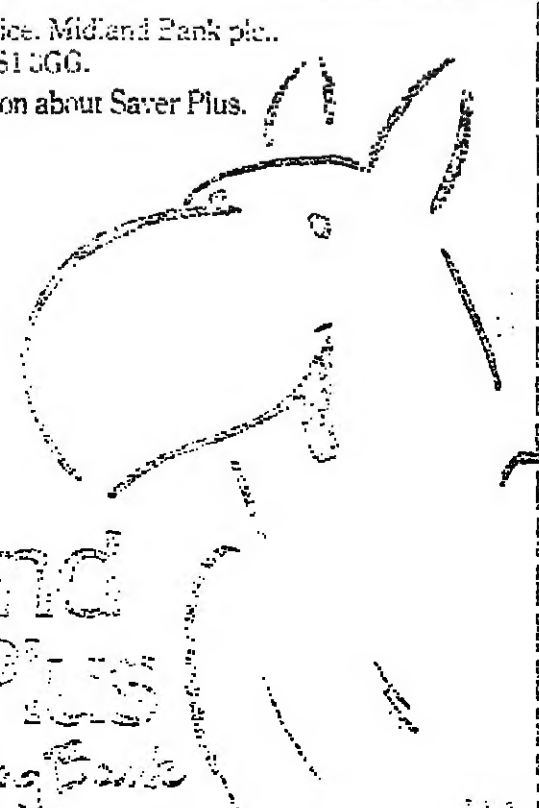
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## After the Philippines upheaval

## Joyful millions cheer conquering Corazon

In a highly theatrical gesture, the new President of the Philippines, Mrs Corazon Aquino, yesterday revoked her predecessor's suspension of habeas corpus and signed the presidential proclamation with a flourish before a vast mass meeting in the centre of the capital, Manila.

The meeting, which was partly a religious service, partly a show business festival, took place on a swelteringly sultry afternoon, and had Cardinal Jaime Sin, while celebrating Mass, bellowing "Cor-y. Cor-y," giving the presidential "L" sign, and speaking of "the past days of grace" when people defied tanks and guns "when their only weapons were rosaries and words and prayers and flowers and faith".

Even the President caught the biblical atmosphere, referring to the assassination of her husband, Senator Benigno ("Ninoy") Aquino, as the country's Good Friday, and the installation of her Government as its Easter Sunday.

"I am sure that Ninoy is smiling at us now," she told the ecstatic crowd. "We have proved him correct that the Filipino is worth dying for."

Mrs Aquino urged her audience, which a commentator estimated at six million strong

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

and which even the police guessed as about three million, not to allow the "people power" that swept her into office to fade away.

She said there were still vital tasks for the people, and warned that, though the situation was now stable, "there are still hold-out pockets of civilian and military loyalists" who threaten the new set-up.

She urged the people to act as vigilantes to "watch over our Government, from President and Vice-President to my ministers, all the way down to the lowest rungs of the bureaucracy."

The crowd, dressed in every shade of yellow imaginable, from the palest jersey cream through pale yellow and ochre to the richness of mango and apricot and gold, responded with huge applause when the President insisted that she meant every word when she promised to outlaw the evils of Mr Marcos's Government.

Mrs Aquino announced that, of the 484 in detention, she had ordered 480 released. The two principal ones remaining in detention are the chairman of the Central Committee of the banned Communist Party, Mr Jose Maria Sison, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Communist-led

rebel New People's Army (NPA). Mr Bernabe Bascayano.

The failure to release all the prisoners — though an obviously sound move in the event — is not the only way that the new Government is not quite living up to the immediately high expectations of its followers.

The new Minister for Local Government, Mr Aquilino Pimentel, is causing a considerable furore by giving orders to all incumbent mayors to resign their offices and face replacement by mayors of a more suitable political colouring.

In a number of municipalities the news is being greeted by further spontaneous demonstrations of "people power", with objectors protesting that they want to keep the mayors they love.

The Justice Minister is having a similar problem with some of the judges of the High and Supreme Courts, who are anxious not to resign in case they may not be reappointed.

Some dissident figures are trying to challenge the Government's legal right to ask for all these resignations.

Other officials, like the Justice Minister himself, have been saying that Mrs Aquino's Government is a revolutionary



Still in the shadow of the military, a Filipino family picnics before President Aquino's rally, one basing its right on the power of the people.

One set of sackings has not caused any disturbance, yet was also announced by Mrs Aquino yesterday. She said she had put an end to the service of 23 generals whose careers were extended past

retirement age by Mr Marcos. Ex-minister returns: Mr Blas Ople, Labour Minister under ousted President Marcos, returned yesterday from the US (AFP reports).

Mr Ople said his plans were "to attend to private interests and devote myself at the

Batasang Pambansa (National Assembly) as KBL leader," the Philippine News Agency said.

The KBL is Mr Marcos's New Society Movement, which held a majority in the assembly before he was deposed.

## Marcos claims he stepped down to avert bloodshed

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the ousted Philippines President, looking typically impassive but fitter than when he first stepped shakily off an American military plane in Hawaii on Wednesday, said at the weekend that he had stepped down rather than use his "superior military power".

Although he had several opportunities to use that power, "the employment of such an overwhelming force, no matter how legitimate, would have resulted in the bloody carnage of innocent civilians," he added. "I have been called brave in my time, but brave as I have been against foreign invaders, I have no heart to shed Filipino blood."

It was his first public statement since being taken on a stretcher into a US C141 Starfighter cargo plane at Clark air base outside Manila a week ago and flown into exile. He refused to answer questions, reportedly on the advice of friends and those who wanted to prevent possible embarrassment to the US.

Typewritten copies of his statement were issued on paper headed: "Office of the President of the Philippines, Manila." He read it seated on the wind-swept stage of an open-air dance floor at the officers club overlooking Pearl Harbour.

His wife Imelda sat next to him, smiling occasionally. Mr Marcos, aged 68, said he had recovered from "a touch of flu". He said that after leaving Malacanang Palace he had wanted to go to Laoag City in his home province of Ilocos Norte, but had been told by "President Reagan's direct representative" to leave for Hawaii instead.

He said he was looking for accommodation to rent or lease in Hawaii.

New revelations are emerging about the trove of money, jewellery and documents that were among personal possessions on the two American planes that took Mr Marcos and his entourage into exile.

US Government sources in Honolulu were quoted yesterday as saying that real estate deeds, stocks and bonds and other documents worth hundreds of millions of dollars were on board. The money and documents, together with jewellery and other valuables, were said to be under guard while US officials decided what to do with them.

One report said that Mr Marcos left behind a 1982 contract to buy a 71-storey office building on Wall Street, New York, for \$70 million. However, his name is not in the contract.

## Moscow offer to West on SS22s



Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union has promised to withdraw new short-range nuclear missiles from Czechoslovakia and East Germany if the United States agrees to scrap its European-based rockets under an East-West arms control deal.

In a speech to the Communist Party congress made public yesterday, the Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, inserted a sentence apparently aimed at soothing concern about the missiles in Western Europe.

"If American medium-range rockets in Western Europe are completely liquidated

there will be no further necessity for the stationing of Soviet operative-tactical weapons in those places where they have been deployed," he said.

It was Moscow's first indication of what would happen to the missiles if it reached agreement with Washington on abolishing medium-range weapons.

The Soviet Union began deploying SS22 missiles in the two allied communist states in 1984 in response to the arrival of US cruise and Pershing missiles in the West.

Western European governments, especially the West Germans, have voiced concern that the new rockets might be overlooked in an arms control package.

The SS22s based in East Germany and Czechoslovakia can reach targets in West Germany, Britain and France.

## Low-key birthday

Moscow (Reuters) — Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's 55th birthday yesterday passed with barely a mention in the Soviet press, in contrast with the pomp that surrounded such occasions when Brezhnev was party leader, when there were special ceremonies and eulogies in newspapers.

## Karmal blames US for Afghan stalemate

Moscow (Reuters) — President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan has said that US pressure on Pakistan is blocking a settlement of his country's guerrilla war, and that an absolute majority of Afghans now supported his Government.

He also said that Soviet troops would leave Afghanistan immediately if the US and other countries halted their support for Muslim guerrillas there.

"If Pakistan was not under the pressure of the United States and agreed to talk directly with our country, a political settlement could soon be found."

Pakistan has refused to negotiate with the Soviet-backed Kabul Government. The two states are talking indirectly through United Nations officials.

President Karmal, in Moscow for the 27th Soviet Com-

munist Party Congress, repeatedly attacked Washington as the main cause of the six-year conflict. He also blamed China and Iran.

He said that important changes were taking place in Afghanistan as more people began supporting his administration.



President Babrak Karmal: settlement could be found.

## González in fighting mood for Nato poll

From Richard Wigg, Jaén, Andalusia

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, came to his native Andalusia yesterday to plunge personally into his Government's campaign for a "Yes" verdict in the Nato referendum 10 days from now.

He adopted his old fierce combative style, reminiscent of the 1982 general election campaign, in which he won power, telling an enthusiastic audience: "I am proud as a politician to lead swimming against the current, not for the benefit of my party or myself, but in the interest of Spain."

He added: "I am confident it will be 'Yes' because I trust in the common sense of the people who believe we are building peace with the rest of the democratic countries of Europe and who know we have broken down the barriers of two centuries of isolation. We can be proud of a party which has evolved in order to serve the country."

The audience repeatedly chanted "Felipe, the people are with you."

This initial meeting on one of the Prime Minister's rare appearances outside the capitol since taking office was chosen with great care. Jaén has with 9,000 card-carrying

members, the biggest Socialist Party group in the country after Madrid, and buses of militants from rural areas easily filled the town's indoor sports stadium.

Señor González stakes much on the referendum outcome. If he pulls it off he can sweep to victory in general elections this year, as his powers enhanced, but if he blunders, the magic of his personal style of governing will be seriously damaged.

The last opinion poll before the campaign began showed a majority of Spaniards opposing Nato, but the gap was narrowing, and many were still undecided.

The Socialists need a big "Yes" vote from their stronghold, Andalusia, to compensate for adverse areas like the Basque country.

Señor González said: "It is true I have changed my position and I am explaining this now to the country. Others change but they do not have the courage to explain."

If the "no" vote triumphed, Señor González said that after March 13 he would have to break links with other EEC heads of government and face the Americans alone on defence issues.

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## Mubarak downgrades four commanders of police mutineers

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

As Egyptian government troops yesterday tramped through miles of sand dunes west of the Pyramids in search of the few mutinous security policemen who managed to escape from their besieged barracks on Friday, President Mubarak hastily replaced the officers who commanded — but did not control — the thousands of security men who rioted throughout Cairo last week.

Four senior officials have been transferred to humble positions in the government bureaucracy, the nature of which gives some indication of the ignominy into which Mr Mubarak has thrown their careers.

Newspapers here have given considerable publicity to the dismissals, so that Egyptians should realize how seriously the President regards the rebellion within his own security forces.

Major-General Muhammad Tantani fell from grace rather spectacularly. From being head of the Egyptian State Security Services, he has been made Assistant Minister for the "Central Delta Area". Major-General Hussein Kamel Zaki, who was First Assistant Minister for the Security Services, will now

exercise his talents as First Assistant Minister for "Economic Security" (sic), while Major-General Lutfi Abdul-Fattah Ibrahim, the director for the Central Security Forces, is to become director of "the Department of Data and Documentation" — in other words, state archives.

Major-General Mukhtar Maged, who was Assistant Minister for the Security Forces, has now been put in charge of "financial and administrative affairs".

Mr Mubarak has at least tried to deal with the immediate causes of the rioting by instructing his new Interior Minister, Major-General Zaki Badri, to look after the "social interests" of the black-uniformed conscripts who are supposed to control internal security in the capital.

Indeed, details of their conditions which are now emerging in Cairo say a good deal about the contempt in which the authorities held them over the past decade.

It transpires, for example, that the average wage of a Cairo security policeman was £4 a month — enough money to buy two soft drinks in the hotels which they burnt down in their riot last week.

Many were enraged not so

much by false rumours that their three-year term of conscription was to be raised by 12 months as by an instruction that they were now to lose two days' pay a month "for austerity reasons".

Furthermore, the police — many of whom come from villages hundreds of miles from Cairo — were told that their free train fares home every six weeks were henceforth to be given to them only once every three months.

The policemen, with their outdated Soviet bayonet-topped breech-loading rifles, who stood guard outside foreign embassies in the capital, were expected to buy or cage bread while on duty, sometimes accepting food as gifts from passers-by. Yesterday many of them were back on duty in the city — but without their rifles.

There is little doubt in Egypt, however, that improvements in their conditions will be merely cosmetic if the Government does not swiftly come to grips with the more fundamental problem of poverty among the overcrowded, Dickensian slums of the city.

Yet with falling oil and tourist revenues, it is difficult to see how the President can even begin to cope.



Iraqi soldiers in action outside Fao, the south-eastern Iraqi port which has been occupied for two weeks by Iranian troops.

## Ship chief officer dies in Gulf raid

Bahrain (Reuters) — Five warplanes, apparently from Iran, bombed a Turkish tanker in the Gulf yesterday, killing the ship's chief officer and injuring a crew member, shipping officials said.

The attack on the Atlas 1, bound for the main Saudi Arabian oil terminal of Ras Tanurah, appeared to be a retaliation from Iran for four strikes in the past week by Iraq on tankers using Iranian ports.

In Istanbul, the general manager of a state-owned shipping company said that the ship "was hit by bombs from five still unidentified military aircraft 150 miles off Ras Tanurah".

Shipping sources in the Gulf said that the attack appeared to have been carried out by Iranian aircraft, judging from the ship's position 85 miles east of Qatar and the use of bombs.

● Nicosia: Iranian troops have shelled the military garrison at Suleimaniyah in north-east Iraq, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday (AP reports). It was thought to be the first time that the environs of the city, one of the twin capitals of Iraq's Kurdistan region, have come under artillery fire since the outbreak of the war 5½ years ago. Dozens of Iraqi soldiers were reported killed or wounded.

## Ershad offers to hold elections at end of April

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

President Ershad of Bangladesh announced here yesterday that he would hold elections for a new Parliament in the last week of April, in an attempt to return the country to democracy after four years of military rule.

General Ershad asked the main opposition parties to

withdraw their boycott threat, and promised to take steps to ensure fair elections.

But he emphasized that he would not end martial law before the poll, as demanded by the two main opposition alliances.

At least three previous attempts to hold elections were abandoned after opposition boycott threats.

There were no immediate reactions from the opposition, but both Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the 15-party alliance, and Mrs Khaleda Zia, leader of the seven-party alliance, said in speeches on Saturday that they could not

take part in polls under military rule.

General Ershad, in an at-

tempt to bring the opposition to the polls, said that he would wind up the military courts and abolish the martial law administrators' offices.

The two alliances have called a general strike for March 24, and have threatened to follow it up with a civil disobedience movement if

martial law continues.

## 'Ivan the Terrible' trial

## Ukrainian denies he was a Nazi

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The man the Israelis call "Ivan the Terrible" made his first appearance before a court here yesterday and immediately denied that he had ever been to the Nazi death camp of Treblinka, let alone, in the words of the charge sheet, "participated in the murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians — men, women and children".

In the canteen of the Russian Compound police barracks, where the British once interrogated Jewish terrorists, a makeshift courtroom had been set up so that Deputy Commander Alex Ish-Shalom could apply for a 15-day remand in custody for "Mr Ivan John Demjanjuk, aged 66, lately of Cleveland, USA, at present under arrest in Israel".

Wearing the brown suit and open-neck shirt in which he arrived in Israel on Friday, Mr Demjanjuk was brought handcuffed in the special armoured car which will be used to take him to hearings from his high security cell at Ramla, 30 miles from Jerusalem.

Tall and thick-set, he has been described by prison service doctors as "very strong". While Mr Denis Gouldman, head of the State Attorney's international section, read out in Hebrew the charges, punishable by death, Mr Demjanjuk sat impassively, scratching his face and listening to a whispered Ukrainian translation.

Mr Aharon Smicha, president of the magistrates' court,

pointed out that the death sentence was possible under Sections 1 and 2 of the Nazi and Nazi Collaborators (Punishment) Law, but that it was not obligatory.

Mr Demjanjuk, blinking behind his thick, horn-rimmed spectacles in the harsh light of the television camera spotlights, was asked if he had anything to say.

Obviously frustrated at having the proceedings filtered through his interpreter, he asked if he could speak in English and was allowed to do so. Although he has lived in the United States since 1952, his English is heavily accented and very ungrammatical.

"Why I am here? I don't believe," he said. "I was never in the place you call Treblinka. I myself was in a prison camp of war."

He told the court he had never served the Nazis. He had been a prisoner and had been taken to Graz in Austria and asked to serve in a Ukrainian division by the Germans. "I am completely the wrong person you talk about," he said.

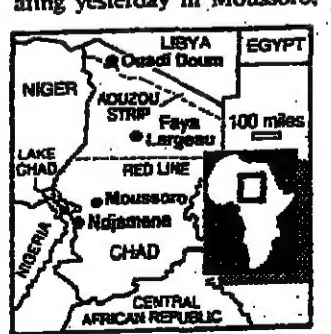
But the court, having briefly studied three of the thick files of evidence collected against him over the past 10 years, granted the remand in custody and he was hurried back to his armoured car.

In prison he has been refused permission to telephone his family in the United States and told that he must communicate with them by mail.

## France deploys radar north of Ndjamena

Paris (Reuters) — France has deployed a radar system, guarded by its troops, in northern Chad for the first time since the latest fighting broke out.

The Defence Ministry said radar equipment began operating yesterday in Moussoro.



about 120 miles north-west of Ndjamena.

The radar was being used to provide better protection for Ndjamena airport in the event of air attacks.

The vulnerability of the airport was highlighted on February 17 when it was attacked by a lone Soviet-built Tupolev 22 bomber.

France said the attack left a crater in the runway and the airport was closed to civilian traffic for two days.

The ministry would not say how many troops were being deployed to protect the radar, but sources numbered them at about 100. France sent troops and aircraft to Chad after a rebel offensive three weeks ago.

## Uganda puts ex-prisoner in its Cabinet

Kampala (AP) — A long-time opponent of former President Milton Obote who has spent eight of the past 20 years as a political prisoner has joined the new Cabinet.

The appointment of Mr Balaki Kurya as Minister of State in the President's office was announced on Uganda radio together with other Cabinet appointments. There are now 20 ministers in the Cabinet of President Museveni.

Five deputy ministers were also named, including the first woman given a ministerial post by President Museveni. Gertrude Njuba will be Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation, Mr Sebenna Kizito, Minister for Regional Cooperation, Mr E. Kakonge, Local Government, and Mr John Numbi, Education.

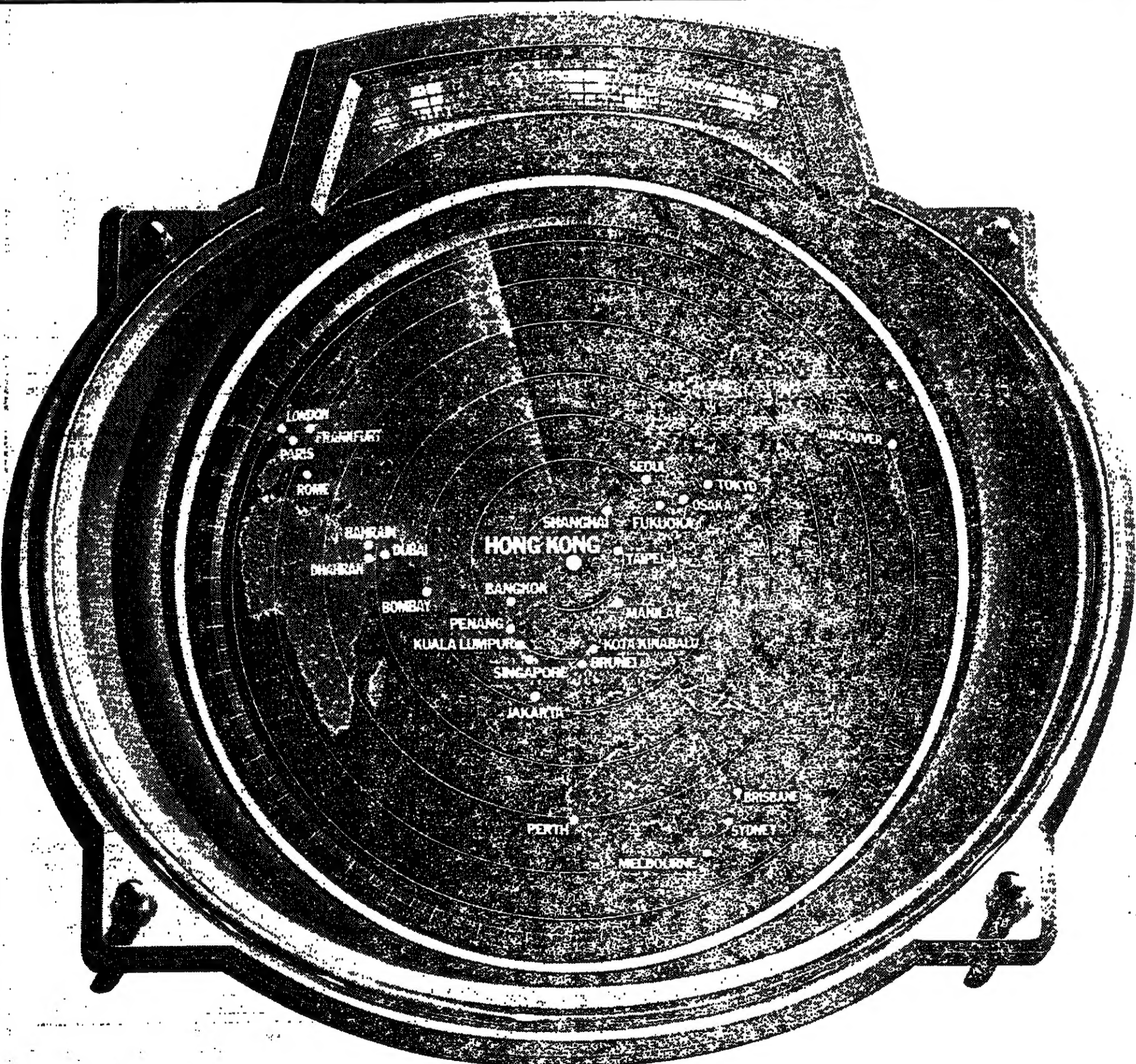
## Income tax scrapped in Grenada

St George's, Grenada (Reuters) — Mr Herbert Blaize, the Grenada Prime Minister, announced that personal income tax would be abolished in his new budget, which he said would convert Grenada into an island of opportunities.

Mr Blaize has presented to Parliament a budget of 236.4 million East Caribbean dollars (about £58.3 million), which scrapped 16 other forms of taxation, including hotel occupancy tax and consumption and excise duties.

He also removed a levy imposed by the former Marxist government on salaries to help finance construction of the Point Saline airport.

Mr Blaize replaced the abolished taxes with a value added tax, a land value tax, a company tax and a petrol tax.



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# THE ARTS

## Television Without heart

Anita Brookner's *Hotel du Lac* won the Booker Prize in 1985 and, completing its triumphant progress, has now made it to the small screen in BBC2's faithful but uninspiring adaptation.

The original work is a study of Edith Hope, writer of romantic fiction under a more "thrilling" (Brookner's word) name than her own, and a woman in pain who hankers after a loving, domestic relationship. Her story is told in a clear, simple language which resonates with feeling and is packed with many surprising and startling images.

A translation to the screen must be judged on two levels: not only how well it re-creates the characters and places depicted in the original, but also how well it finds a way of expressing, in the language of film, what was originally said in words.

In terms of the first criterion, this production cannot be faulted. The location is just as Edith Hope wrote: "A massive house in the role of Edith Hope is just the right balance of primness and discreet sexuality: Denholm Elliott as Mr Neville is sad and mephistophelean; and Patricia Hodge as Monica has brought to life a character who arouses feelings simultaneously of sympathy and contempt.

Unfortunately these excellent performances were yoked to poor technique and a tired style of film-making. This was clear from the start, when the credits were played over a close-up of a breakfast tray with a glass of orange juice prominent on it and a Swiss lake in the background. It was probably meant to say something about Edith Hope's loneliness: as an image, it belonged to a holiday brochure.

We next saw Edith lying in bed with her lover David Simmonds (played by Barry Foster). The camera tracked along crumpled sheets to a pair of slightly fuzzy heads. It would have been quite in order if a voice-over had started extolling the virtues of silk underwear or a male deodorant. It was a degraded image, indistinguishable from a thousand like it.

The result was photographed theatre and not cinema. It looked like the original: it lacked the characters from the original, speaking lines from the original but it had not the essence of the original. It lacked the pain of the novel because it resorted to visual clichés rather than finding new expressions.

Mr Pye (Channel 4), on the other hand, was good, for it tried to find pictures for Mervyn Peake's prose and succeeded. Derek Jacobi as Mr Pye captured the character's quirky piety and Judy Parfitt was splendidly uptight as Miss Dredger. Patricia Hayes as Kaka, the Albanian harriidan, was unforgettable.

Carlo Gebler

In his new film, *Clockwise*, which appears in London next week, John Cleese (right) has risen above the confines of absurdity: interview by Paul Nathanson

## Struggling to escape from a familiarly Fawltly image

"Ask me anything you like — the more insulting, the more interesting it'll probably be," John Cleese says gamely, stretching out his huge frame and resting his foot on a chair. Failing an insult, I toss him a quote — one of his own. "I want to go into character a lot deeper than I've ever been before in my acting. And that won't be difficult," he had declared in 1983. Reminded of this pious hope, Cleese roars with laughter — a deep, wheezy laugh like an ancient jolly starting up on a frosty morning.

He is too modest to say so, but in his new role as Brian Stimpson, the doomed hero in the first film with a Michael Frayn script, *Clockwise*, Cleese has transcended the riotous but narrow confines of absurdity enclosing his Minister of Silly Walks and friends and, later, Basil Fawlty. Stimpson is the proud, pragmatic headmaster of Thomas Tompion Comprehensive School, who is the first Comprehensive head ever to be Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. Fanatically punctual, he still contrives to miss his train and battles desperately against the clock to reach the conference before his hour of glory passes him by.

Did Basil Fawlty muscle in on the part? "Well, I'm aware of the public expectation and, whatever I do, people see me as Basil," Cleese

replies with the jaded air of an overworked cleric. "I mean in *Silverado*, where I play a sheriff [the amoral and cowardly Sheriff Langston of Turley], one critic wrote about me turning up in *Fawlty* Prairies. So yes, I did make some conscious decisions not to do one or two things."

According to the director, Christopher Morahan, Cleese did not always succeed. "But John's his own best critic and is very, very alert to overstatement, so on a number of occasions he asked us to do takes again where he felt he'd gone over the top". Cleese indeed does rush around manically in two scenes, vandalizes a phone box and kicks a car, but there all comparisons with Basil stop.

Unlike Fawlty, Brian Stimpson is ruthlessly efficient. He has the timetable computerized and the school running like a dream railway system — with digital precision. He does not rant or bang his head on desks; neither does he assault staff. And, Cleese observes, under Stimpson's rather formidable authority-figure there is somebody quite real: under Basil's carrot face he is not sure there is anyone at all.

Stimpson fails and resigns himself to defeat, having given his all. As Michael Frayn says, "Stimpson

can stand despair, it's the hope he finds difficult". Cleese liked the apotheosis in Stimpson from the all-dominant to the all-passive and conveys the transformation with a quiet subtlety not associated with his acting until now.

After two years away from films he was drawn to *Clockwise* by the script and by Stimpson as well as the physical challenge of a full part instead of the cameos in the Python films, *Time Bandits*, *The Great Muppet Caper* and *Yellowbeard*. He had only played one other role through a whole film — Major Giles Flack in *Privateers on Parade* in 1982. "I wanted to see if I could get through eight weeks' filming and finish in reasonably good form, feeling physically o.k. and mentally together and not exhausted", Cleese says, "and I managed it fine by the simple expedient of getting to bed very early and having my masseur work on me for 45 minutes every night."

The masseur was much needed. Within eight days Cleese had managed to smash his left knee on a staircase and then pull a hamstring chasing trains on Hull station. "It felt a bit like going out to war", he chuckles boyishly, "and I thought: I hope I come out of this alive." He did, and seemed remarkably re-



laxed when we met early one morning at the Groucho Club in Soho. Friends like Michael Palin confirm that he is altogether much more relaxed and settled nowadays than in the Python years during the Sixties and Seventies. The farcure pillorying all figures of authority is now the philosopher, immersed in books on religion, psychiatry and psychology.

The filming process bores Cleese and, as his internationally-successful industrial training film company Video Arts pays the bills, he is under little pressure to act. Surprisingly, he has never seen himself as an actor. He wants to write, and is planning a sequel to his best-selling book *Families and How to Survive* Them (1983), co-written with his therapist, Robin Skynner. Under scrutiny will be change, death, divorce and the work ethic.

If this sounds slightly turgid for the man once dubbed as Britain's very own comedy institution, fear not. Cleese is also planning his own first screenplay — a comedy called *Corruption or A Goldfish Called Wonder*. "One sounds thoroughly silly", he says, "the other almost D.W. Griffith. I'm writing it with Charlie Chrichton [who directed *The Lavender Hill Mob* in 1951] and it's about a barrister who gets called in to defend the head of a gang who's carried out a jewellery robbery and how the barrister gets involved with the members of the

## Opera Singers left to fight their own battles

Il trovatore  
Covent Garden

The weekend's revival of Verdi's *Il trovatore*, the second of the season, gave the impression that the principals and the conductor had just flown in on the afternoon plane. Most of the dramatic energy has seeped from Luchino Visconti's once distinguished production, now staged by Wilfred Judd, and what remains has become almost invisible. With little guidance on stage or from the pit the singers, some new to the production and others not, were left to do their own thing.

The most attractive singing came from the Azucena and the di Luna. Stefania Toczyska looks outrageously young to have reared a brawny fellow like Franco Bonisoli's Manrico, but perhaps gypsy girls weathered well in 15th-century Spain. The mezzo remains excellently based, although a few soft notes in volume: a few soft notes of gentle wandering as Azucena drifts into sleep in "Ai nostri monti" would have been welcome. Leo Nucci's forthright baritone has been accused of monotony, but he makes a bold figure of di Luna and, like Toczyska, never gives any



The gypsy girl who weathered well: Stefania Toczyska with the brawny Franco Bonisoli

cause for vocal concern. "Il balen" was hit plumb on the note, and that was the pleasure in an evening when pleasures were rationed out with parsimony.

Bonisoli's Manrico is inimitable and, some would say, just as well. It is built around his rendering of "Di quella pira", which remains a piece of bravura singing just as "Ah, si ben mio", which preceded the past two or three years' more likely the rehearsals for the forthcoming *Fliegende Holländer* have taken their toll. She seems ill-advised to tackle roles as different as

Senta and Leonora within the space of a fortnight. It was not until the Act IV duets with Manrico and di Luna that she showed the Leonora she could be; by then she had at last acquired a decent costume to show off her fine features.

John Higgins

Hillier/Stubbs  
Old St Pancras  
Church

Over the years the Camden Festival has mounted some fairly exotic entertainments, much to the dismay of the London borough's less cultured, ally-minded ratepayers, perhaps. But opening a major arts festival with a recital of 800-year-old monodies, sung in a tiny medieval church on a snowy mound behind King's Cross station, takes some beating for quirky inventiveness.

For connoisseurs of twelfth- and thirteenth-century music, it was a jewel of an evening. Paul Hillier, chose well from among the large repertoire of Crusaders' songs — songs in which the troubadour's perennial preoccupations with love, separation and death are often

## Camden Festival

heightened by isolation in a strange land fighting for a cause in which many had lost interest.

He included, for instance, "Fortz chausa es" by Gaucelm Faidit, who was said to have "sung worse than any man in the world" but could certainly write a plaintive melody, as this elegy for Richard the Lionheart showed. Yet Richard was perfectly capable of turning in a serviceable lament himself: "Ja nus bons pris", which rather bitterly berates his allies for not bailing him out, is a truly regal tune. Perhaps the finest of all these songs is Walther von der Vogelweide's "Palastmal", encapsulating the whole philosophy behind the Crusades in five elegant medieval-German stanzas. But the song which inspired Paul Hillier to his most impassioned delivery was Oswald von Wolken-

stein's "Es fugt sich", an earthy, dark and fatalistic "last testament" sort of ditty with a wonderfully expressive series of modal melismas.

In general, though, Hillier used his dark-timbered baritone with excellent control but some reserve. One hardly expected him to burst into falsetto when narrating the erotic adventures of a 13-year-old virgin, but a greater expressive range would have helped differentiate between what were essentially similar items.

Nevertheless he weaved biography, songs, recitations and some harp-playing of a rather minimal variety into an attractive aural tapestry; and Stephen Stubbs certainly varied the lute accompaniments, from some catchily rhythmic drones to many delicate echoes of the singer.

Richard Morrison

Rock  
Cherrelle and  
Alexander O'Neal  
Hammersmith  
Odeon

Although the two artists performed separately, their recent hit as a duet, "Saturday Love", and other common features of their careers, made this a sensible double bill, and a must for aficionados of the latest generation of glossy disco-soul crooners.

Both performers have achieved prominence through the auspices of Tabu Records, employing the production and song-writing skills of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, formerly of The Time, a group that flourished in the early Eighties under the direction of Prince. O'Neal, from Mississippi, comes from the more rock-

orientated background, at one time performing covers of songs by such groups as Def Leppard, yet he has evolved into the smoother end of the soul market. With a voice like brown treacle, he seduced the audience with a carefully measured delivery of sensual, heavy-lidded love songs: "If You Were With Me Tonight" — "a song for all the ladies and lovers in the house" — was sung with much melodramatic grunting and sharp intakes of breath while his large, white-suited frame writhed in sympathy.

Despite this rather dreary format, O'Neal nevertheless exuded a certain kitsch charisma. He had presence, Cherrelle, on the other hand, took a more upbeat direction, but seemed a slighter performer. With a sharp-dressed trio of male backing singers, who danced almost as well as they sang, she launched into a lively set, with a rapid turn-

over of spritely songs and gaudy costumes. As "Artificial Heart" segued into the pumping groove of "New Love", the dance steps accelerated and temperatures rose.

Her backing band, some of whom also supported O'Neal, comprised for most of the time three keyboard players and a drummer only, yet, despite the synthesized bassline and horn parts, the sound was curiously conventional, even a little loose.

The reappearance of O'Neal to sing "Saturday Love" was greeted with uproar, and as the two embraced in simulated lascivious passion, the performance drew to a timely conclusion; the kind of music, and ending, that are bound to please listeners to Tony Blackburn's radio show, but may leave the rest of us looking forward to Sunday.

David Sinclair

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When the last generation or two of indigenous or eponymous publishers — like Andre Deutsch, Ernest Hecht, Rupert Hart-Davis, James MacGibbon & Robert Kee, John Lehmann, John Calder — set up their plates the object of the passionate exercise was to publish particular authors, particular books: literature, no less. The publisher obtained his kicks from printing his name at the base of a book's spine and near the bottom of the title page, and in somehow selling sufficient copies to remain in business for long enough to be able to bring out the next book by the same admired author, and others of his or her literary kind. Occasionally a publisher would go under, and thus be acquired by a more affluent, larger, long-established house, the imprint sooner or later discreetly submerged. This the Granada Group acquired Rupert Hart-Davis and MacGibbon & Kee, and in its turn not long ago Collins acquired Granada and changed its name to Grafton.

Today the book-publishing industry employs immeasurably more people than ever before. Equally, more are out of work than ever before. They manage, mostly, to cobble together a living by freelance reading, sometimes for their old employers; editing; writing blurbs; even co-authoring with better known names: James Cochrane, late editorial director at Penguin then Hutchinson, has just signed up with Pavilion to do a book on songs with his former Hutchinson author Kingsley Amis. Nevertheless, most of the editorial people shaken loose, as the cliché of industrial relations has it, will not find it easy to obtain another job on a similar level as, with increasing fervour and brutality, publishing house buys publishing house in a game of who can become the biggest. As a result of its latest restructuring, Collins has just lost Roger Schlesinger, its senior editorial man, who — ironically — once had his own distinguished children's im-

## Publishing What is a book?

print. Christopher MacLehose, publisher of the Collins subsidiary Harvill (its sop to literary values), also resigned but was persuaded back a few days later. Schlesinger and MacLehose, like Cochrane, are in publishing because they care about the editorial content of books. Even a few years ago to have had to make such a statement about book-trade people would have been absurd. Today the attitude of the accountants and bookkeepers who rule the industry is: turnover and profits come first and any young idiot can bring in the saleable authors and keep them.

In the last ten days or so Macmillan bought Sidgwick & Jackson from Trusthouse Forte; Cambridge University Press and W. & R. Chambers agreed to collaborate on reference-books publishing; and three senior directors at Robert Maxwell's Macdonald announced their resignation to set up their own house. A few years ago any of these occurrences, including the flurry of temperaments being displayed at Collins, would have been the cause of endless speculation, and prophecies that the age of the book was over. Now they hardly cause a ripple, as changes of a similar kind are announced every week.

Of course, the people they most affect, the authors, are told — if at all — as an afterthought. They do not come into the calculations, at least until every other piece in the jigsaw is in place.

The City, for better or for worse, continues to believe there are substantial profits to be made from publishing. Tim Hely-Hutchinson and his fellow departed colleagues from Macdonald have already raised a reasonable sum and will

experience little difficulty in garnering the rest they need. Will tomorrow's Shakespeare, Milton and Dickens have found their benefactor? This is unlikely as Hely-Hutchinson is quoted as saying that his purpose is to establish a "full-blooded, diversified publishing house, publishing fiction, humour, popular biography, food and wine titles — the full range of popular subjects". He adds, as *de rigueur* on such occasions, that he is anxious "to get back to being with books".

We shall see. The difficulty is that there are books and books, and what publishers increasingly mean by books is not what people who value reading and literature mean.

E.J. Craddock

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## 2. The Government is planning to make it worse.

Well? What would you do? To its credit, the Government has decided to face the reality of SERPS, rather than bequeathing its unresolved problems to its successors in the 21st Century.

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A survey conducted in 10 countries indicates that the most disabling illness known to man has a biological basis

# Schizophrenia: the root of the problem



The forgotten illness

There are 17 million people in the world suffering from schizophrenia. A new study absolves families from most of the blame and suggests

that it is an illness and not a social condition. Marjorie Wallace reports

A worldwide epidemiological study of schizophrenia carried out by the World Health Organization over the last eight years will throw new light on the disease and may help to reveal its cause.

It also has important implications for the way we cope with victims and the role played by their families.

Dr Assen Jablensky, a Bulgarian epidemiologist and the Senior Medical Officer in WHO's Department of Mental Health last week told *The Times* the results of this study, due to be published in June. The survey, the first to quantify new cases, was started in 1977. It was carried out in 12 research centres in 10 countries — Colombia, Czechoslovakia,

that in all 10 countries the incidence of new cases of schizophrenia was virtually identical, about one per cent, of whom half were serious cases. Because social and economic conditions vary so widely between the different countries, the study showed that schizophrenia is not brought on by particular socio-economic conditions.

Similarly, because family relationships and culture vary so greatly, it is very unlikely that families cause their children's schizophrenia. "The study should relieve any feelings of guilt", Dr Jablensky says. "Families cannot be blamed and those who take comfort from the evidence that schizophrenia has a biological basis should be further reassured". He believes the study demolishes the concept of the schizophrenic mother, who causes schizophrenia by a mixture of over-protection and expectations of independence. But while culture and family do not affect the incidence of schizophrenia, they can dramatically alter its progress.

"Where the schizophrenic can be contained within a large family network where the atmosphere is more supportive and less demanding, his chances of recovery are much higher", says Jablensky. In developing countries like Nigeria or India many patients suffer a single schizophrenic episode followed by complete recovery. In Nigeria, 58 per cent of those followed up were of this type. In India, it was 51 per cent. In Denmark, with smaller families, only 6 per cent recovered completely.

This interpretation of the results supports research by Dr Julian Leff and Dr Christine Vaughan of the Maudsley Hospital, London, indicating that families which are critical and make demands on the sufferer (high expressed emotion families) are three times as likely to trigger a relapse than calmer families. This was also con-



Paul Leth

firmed in the WHO survey in both India and Denmark.

In this and previous surveys, the pattern of poorer prognosis extended throughout the developed countries where up to half the patients became chronic schizophrenics.

There are also geographic differences in symptoms. In poor countries the onset of the illness is sudden, the patient has no previous signs, he comes from a stable family background and develops strong florid symptoms, such as hallucinations. His chances of remission after the first episode are good. By contrast, in richer countries, the patient is often socially withdrawn and lives alone or in an unstable family. There are more negative symptoms such as apathy, lack of

motivation and bleaching of emotion and the prognosis is worse.

Despite widely differing cultures, patients all over the world described their symptoms with an eerie similarity. Hallucinatory voices discussed them in the third person, commenting on every action and thought. They felt their thoughts had been taken over or "read" by some alien agency, or broadcast at large. Patients in countries as different as Nigeria and Denmark described their feelings with almost the same words and phrases. This seems to point to a common biochemical cause. "I was surprised by what we found", says Dr Jablensky. "I expected there would be significant differences in the inci-

dence of the disease in different countries as happens in diabetes and heart disease. The only other conditions which show the same uniform distribution are epilepsy and mental retardation". Clearly, there is an important genetic component underlying schizophrenia. He believes that there are probably a variety of causes and that schizophrenia is the name for many syndromes. He thinks an episode may be activated in a similar way to an epileptic seizure. Schizophrenia could be the consequence of a developmental defect in the brain during the first few years of life. "We should look into birth injuries and early development", he says.

This area is being researched both by Dr Tom MacNeill in Sweden and by a study of twins by Drs Robin Murray and Adrienne Revely at the Institute of Psychiatry, London. Twins suffer more birth traumas than single children, and Dr Revely has found they also commonly have enlarged brain ventricles (chambers filled with cerebro-spinal fluid). Many people with schizophrenia also have enlarged ventricles.

"If we could find out what is going wrong in the maturation of the nervous system", Jablensky says, "it would help us understand why in later years a person develops schizophrenia."

Nearly 30 years ago American psychoanalysts challenged the traditional view that schizophrenia was an illness which needed medical care. Stopped by the Freudian concept that all behaviour has its root in infancy, they believed schizophrenia was caused by early conflicts in relationships, particularly with the mother. Victims should therefore be treated by psychoanalysis rather than drugs.

The idea quickly took hold in analysis-mad America and in the 1960s Thomas Szasz took it to its extreme, claiming that all mental illness was a myth created by psychiatrists. Soon others were jumping on the bandwagon. Sociologists Erving Goffman and Thomas Scheff declared that people became schizophrenic not only because of their parents or psychiatrists, but also through social pressures to conform. The sufferer was not mad, but a victim of society and should not be locked away in hospital.

Their exposure of conditions in these hospitals alerted the libertarians who raised the banner for "patients' rights" and campaigned for changes in the laws which allowed

people to be hospitalized against their will. Those discharged should be looked after in the community.

These ideas spread through Europe during the 1960s and 1970s, becoming entangled with flower-power, intellectual socialism, student protests, left-wing resistance groups like the Reder-Meinhof gang and neo-Marxist revolutionaries.

As a result of these "reforms", thousands of destitute mental patients are crowding the streets of the major cities of Europe and America and their plight is becoming an international scandal. Now the pendulum is beginning to swing back. "The anti-psychiatry movements contain the seed of their own destruction", says Professor John Wing, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London. "A lot of what they say is based on fantasy. They want to make all mentally ill people normal. But in some cases the patient is too ill and it becomes obvious in the end that it is inhumane to put such pressure on him."

The Times checked how the picture was changing in a number of countries.

## AN INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL

### UNITED STATES

The swing has been most dramatic in the United States.

"There is now a universal realization that the running down and closing of mental hospitals was a disaster", says Dr Fuller Torrey, consultant psychiatrist at St Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington.

"Only last year a Texan mental hospital sent weekly busloads of patients to Houston discharging them at the terminus with either 'Family or Salvation Army' on their notes. Many had nowhere to go". Half the "big ladies" and 37 per cent of homeless men are mentally ill. It is now a hot political issue and there are powerful lobby groups in Congress.

### UNITED KINGDOM

In the UK, a plan was put forward in 1981 to close many of the old-fashioned asylums. But it was nearly three years before the civil liberties people took up the Government's plan and the analyst Ronald Laing became a cult figure with his theory that families create madness. In the mid-1960s, Larry Gostin, an American lawyer, came to this country and, working with MIND (National Association for Mental Health) lobbied for hospitals to be closed and championed the cause of patients detained compulsorily. The movement has been successful in forcing changes to the Mental Health Act (1983) which make it more difficult to treat a patient who is so ill he refuses help.

### EASTERN BLOC

The anti-psychiatry movement never reached the Soviet Union or the Eastern European countries, which remain faithful to a rigid medical model. Since the Soviet Union regards its social structure as correct, the

idea that mental illness is due to social conditions is unacceptable. There has been no policy to close the hospitals, although the major centres are developing community care through psychiatric dispensaries and sheltered employment. But many patients seem to end up in long-term secondary hospitals. "They are not part of the health service", says Professor John Wing, who has visited Moscow several times. "Very little is known about them."

### WEST GERMANY

In the 1960s the movement reached West Germany and became associated with various left-wing and libertarian causes. One of the most vehement was Dr Wolfgang Huber, of Heidelberg University, who attempted to put treatment into the hands of the patients. He became involved with the Baader-Meinhof gang and was imprisoned for possessing ammunition. Another group of young psychoanalysts, who called themselves the Marzburger Circle, also attempted to break away from the medical model. Through their efforts, psychiatry was redefined to exclude neurologists. But none of them was able to change the mental health laws, or have a hospital closure policy adopted. "Community care is difficult to fund in Germany", says Dr Sten Manger, of the London School of Economics. "Unlike Britain, German health services are funded by insurance companies. Hospitals lose money when there are empty beds."

### FRANCE

Psychoanalysis has always been very popular in France and anti-psychiatry ideas were eagerly taken up, especially by the intellectual left and Communist Party. As in Germany, the definition of psychiatry was changed to exclude the neurologists. France has a programme of hospital closures and a

regional structure of catchment areas, known as "sectorization". But this scheme relies on a person having an address and patients can easily fall through the net. "There are armies of discharged patients who travel from one hospital to another, begging to be admitted for short periods", Dr Manger says.

### ITALY

The anti-psychiatry movement had its major triumph in Italy. "There was a tremendous ideological movement with student protests, worker protests and then the government saw it as a lovely way of cutting down on bills. As in other countries, it was a unique fusion of left and right-wing motives", says Professor Kathleen Jones of York University, who has studied Italian mental health reform. In 1978 communist-inspired legislation prevented new patients from being admitted. The asylums faced eventual closure and many of their patients were decanted into the community. The result was crowds of abandoned, as they became known, on roadsides and railway stations. Community care is supposed to be available, but when Professor Jones travelled through Italy in 1984, she found many areas had none.

### SWEDEN

Despite similar pressures from civil liberties groups, the Swedish government has adopted a cautious approach. "Politicians are slowing down the closure of mental hospitals and a report lobbying for reforms in mental health laws has just been rejected", says Dr Fritz-Axel Wiesel from the Karolinska Institute. "We are learning the lessons of America and Italy. We do not like big institutions but they are better than being discharged with no alternatives in the community."

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## A salmon's ally in the sky

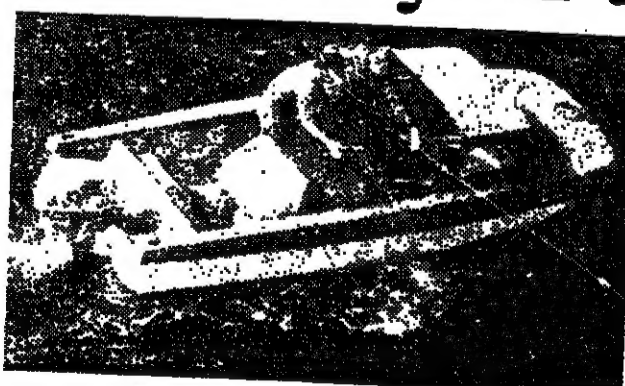
Poaching is a big and lucrative business in Scotland. But river bailiffs are fighting back — from the air

David Smith, Inspector of Sea Fisheries for South East Scotland, scans the bleak stretch of estuary 500ft below. It is not a good day for poachers, with drizzle driven on a bitter wind, and a heavy swell hammering the Berwickshire coast. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland's patrol is cruising along at cliff-top height, so low that salt water has to be hosed off after each sortie.

"Surprise is the essence", Mr Smith, the flying water bailiff, says. "Radio warnings travel faster than aircraft. Poachers use scramble devices on the radio. Some give warnings in Gaelic. The way to catch them is to pounce over the cliff tops from the shore or sweep in from 20 miles out."

Each year the department spends £10 million guarding Scottish waters against all kinds of illegal fishing. The cover extends from Rockall, where the work is done by RAF Nimrod maritime surveillance aircraft, to the inshore waters, where combined tactics are used: the air patrol, a helicopter with fishery officers on board, a fleet of offshore patrol vessels and fast inflatable launches.

There are also the ever-tightening laws. The Salmon Fisheries Bill, which has just received its third reading in the Lords, will make it illegal for a boat even to carry a monofilament net — made of



Sky spy: spotting poachers from the air

fine mesh plastic and invisible to salmon. It will also license salmon dealers and ban hoteliers from accepting salmon through the back door.

Poaching used to be "one for the pot" and regarded as not specially illegal, but the rewards became so huge that today's poachers are armed with cyanide and explosives, and the species is threatened.

Bailiffs on the River Tweed are reportedly angry about the £50 fine meted out to a man caught with 30 poisoned salmon. Fisheries officers calculate that poachers could earn £7,000 in one good haul; even a small boat could land £37,000 tax free in a season. With stiffer penalties and the risk of confiscation of vessel and tackle, the big boats shy away from poaching and leave it to small boats, often nameless, unmarked and of little value. The offshore patrol is very successful. In the time the Tweed Commissioners dealt with 118 cases in the estuary and upstream waters, the inshore patrol had only one case.

But old loyalties die hard in fishing communities. "We have had threats, abuse and

some cases of stone throwing. We have had poachers breaking into property to retrieve confiscated nets and salmon. Someone drilled holes in the launch, but overall I believe we have turned the tables on them", Mr Smith says.

The most bizarre retaliation was reported by the

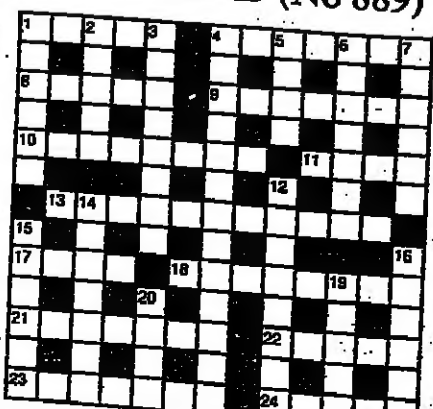
department's helicopter which had spotted an illegal net beneath a cliff, along the top of which ran a golf course. The aircraft radioed for ground assistance and hovered over the net to make sure no one moved it. The aircraft was then pelted with golfballs from the clifftop.

Infra-red night glasses, image intensifiers and radar have made even moonless nights unsafe for poachers, who now wear balaclava helmets to hide their identity from DAFS photographers. The cameras automatically record the position, time, date and heading of the vessel and this evidence is now accepted in court. One man accused of poaching told the court that he wore a balaclava back to front to guard against jellyfish stings. Poachers now rarely look up when a patrol flies overhead.

Ronald Faux

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 889)

- ACROSS  
1 Light motorbike (5)  
4 Nightclub show (7)  
8 Guides (5)  
9 Memory loss (7)  
10 Music writer (8)  
11 Run away (4)  
13 Sulk (11)  
17 Mature (4)  
18 Striking (8)  
21 Sudden wealth (7)  
22 Seep (5)  
23 Sheltered side (7)  
24 Drive out (5)  
  
DOWN  
1 Evil intent (6)  
2 Sacred song (5)  
3 Empty (8)  
4 Fillet steak (13)  
5 Shelf-like bed (4)  
6 Determine (7)  
7 Journey (6)  
12 Charge (8)



- 14 Trespass (7)  
15 Clannish (6)  
16 Acknowledge (6)  
19 Ceasefire pact (5)  
20 S. American Indian (4)



## MONDAY PAGE

# Unleashing an Iron Maiden

Pearson Phillips follows  
the best known business  
woman in France as she  
temporarily trades her  
Porsche and furs for the  
promise of political power

The so-called "Iron Maiden of France" is just a centimetre over five feet tall, has green eyes, fashionably streaked blonde hair and a dangerous habit of making controversial asides to journalists.

There are other important ways in which Madame Francine Gomez differs from her alleged prototype, Britain's Margaret Thatcher. She is 53, but looks about 40, and has just taken a third husband, an advertising man in his late thirties. (Her second husband was Alain Gomez, now head of the nationalized Thomson Company, which among other things makes Exocet missiles.)

She also decided that it was up to her to do her duty to French architecture. Unlike our own "Iron Maiden", she decided to give carte blanche to a young architect to design her country house. The result looks like a large concrete abstract sculpture, squatting on a Provencal hillside: she is delighted with it.

There is one other important difference: Mme Gomez has never yet won a political election, though having watched her in the current national and local election campaign in the southern French city of Nîmes, I would say that is about to change.

How, then, did she get her nickname? I saw her in a street market handing out leaflets which showed her arm-in-arm with right-wing prime ministerial hopeful Jacques Chirac. Customers and market traders greeted her with cries of "Ah... Waterman, Waterman..." for she is best known as the woman who runs the company that makes this famous brand of fountain pen.

She fired a third of her staff,  
and retired her mother

She has run it, moreover, with the ruthless "Iron Maiden" qualities which French folk (and pop songs) link with "Thatcherism". Successful women bosses are rare in French industry. She has therefore regularly decorated French television as the statutory female managing director.

"In France," she says, "the only way for a woman to get on has been to concentrate on fashion, perfume or the media. Either that or she must have the power given by a majority of shares in a family company."

That was her method. The French agency for the American Waterman Pen Company was previously headed by her formidable Scottish grandmother. Her mother took it over but was not successful. When Mme Gomez joined the company in 1969, her only business experience had come from running her own art gallery and antique furniture shop. Fountain pens were going out of fashion. Waterman was losing £400,000 a year and facing bankruptcy. She was put under the wing of the joint managing director, a cousin, and told to get to know the company.

Within two years she had "dusted the place off". She fired 10 of the top management, including her cousin ("His four secretaries cost too much"), sacked a third of the staff and eased her mother and the managing director into retirement. She appointed a new managing director, fired him after a few months ("Power had gone to his head") and took over the whole business. The grand oak-panelled headquarters in the Boulevard de la Madeleine were exchanged for small offices in the 17th arrondissement. She brought in a new team, including designers and marketing experts.



Francine Gomez: "It is important never to commit yourself in politics to anything that is utterly, indelibly factual"

She saw a future for the fountain pen in a world dominated by the ballpoint. By the middle of the 1970s sales had doubled and profits were £1.8 million and rising. She bought the rights to the Waterman name from the American and British owners and launched Waterman SA as a public company on the French stock exchange in 1975. She is now battling for world markets with her chief rival, the Parker Pen Company of America.

As part of the battle she arrives in London tomorrow for an appearance at a Harrods "French Week" gala with Princess Stephanie of Monaco and the French ambassador. But what about her election campaign? Voting is on March 16. Again she departs from the Thatcher model. Politics is all very well, but she finds it a relief to escape from "that curious environment of egotism and narcissism which is involved in an election campaign".

As a candidate she feels like "a talking suitcase, taken from hotel to hotel, unpacked, packed up again and taken somewhere else." She says about politics: "Truth does not exist. Everything is fluctuating, wavering. Whatever happens it is important never to commit yourself in politics to anything that is utterly, indelibly factual." For her it is a relief to get back to "the eternal, solid truths of facts and figures which business provides."

She has been forced into some fluctuations herself. She has abandoned her black Porsche temporarily and drives a more sober Saab for electoral appearances. "And I was in trouble because the only coats I owned to keep out this cold weather were furs. But they told me I couldn't make politics in those. So I had to buy a cloth coat for the campaign. Isn't it ridiculous? Why can't people be the way they are?"

Even the leaflets she was handing out didn't show things quite the way they are, as she gleefully explained. "I look quite tall beside Monsieur Chirac, no? But as you see I am not tall. It is because I was standing on a plank."

She is being launched like one  
of her ex-husband's Exocets

With such apparent disdain for the political game, how did she get mixed up in it in the first place? "Well, the world of business... I begin to know him. So I think it important to know this world of politics, where they make decisions which have so much effect on our lives and our businesses. I like to have some say in this."

During the 1984 European elections she organized a list of fellow industrialists and

"men and women who had done something with their lives". She hoped French voters would turn to people of proven success in fields other than politics to "make the European ideal work". On her list were such people as Marielle Goitschel, three times Olympic skiing gold medal winner. The result? Voters virtually ignored them.

She classifies her own performance during the campaign as "between pathetic and pitiable". The experience cost her much money and grief, but she wrote a funny, indiscreet book, *On Ne Badine Pas Avec La Politique* (One Shouldn't Joke With Politics).

She isn't joking now. She has been clever to get the organization and money of Chirac's RPR party behind her, although she is not herself a party member. She is apparently being launched, like one of her ex-husband's missiles, against one of the RPR's main adversaries, the current Mayor of Nîmes. "I don't dislike the smell of gunpowder," she says.

One of her concerns is that the Roman amphitheatre in Nîmes is being used for bull fighting, a popular local spectacle. And is she going to come out publicly against it? "It is more practical to get elected first - then do something about it."

Spoken, as she would say, like a politician.

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## Just the lady for m'Lord

I have decided what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be the sort of woman adored by Lord Weidenfeld. What His Lordship really goes for, according to one observer, are "women who are beautiful and who look like they don't have a thought in their heads, but who turn out to be incredibly intelligent."

Imagine the lovely time one could have by looking so delectable. Men would come swarming around, thinking that they were on to a good thing, and then you could bore them into a stupor by delivering a thesis on some obscure Jacobean poet. Unless one of them happened to be Lord Weidenfeld, of course. He would be mesmerized by every pearl from one's scarlet lips.

This is not an ambition likely to be fulfilled. My appearance gives every impression that I am more intelligent than I am. This is because I often forget to put on lipstick or to collect my best dress from the cleaner. Everyone assumes my head is teeming with thoughts, and some people get rather upset when they discover it's full of cotton wool, something that only peaches and cream blondes are allowed to get away with.

What I feel I am about to turn into is something even more confusing than the Weidenfeld Woman, namely the Indomitable One, or as the film critic of *Family Film* calls her, the Rambo-ette.

Indomitable women get that way through circumstances rather than choice - no one wants to go through life with rolled-up sleeves, pushing struggling strands of hair behind your ears and wiping beads of moisture from your upper lip. But indomitable is the only way to go when, as in my case, you suddenly find yourself alone with the mortgage repayments and a curtain-rack that needs fixing.

It's amazing how quickly the word gets around that you are no longer silly and helpless. Within minutes, men expect you to book the restaurant table when they ask you out to lunch, and colleagues are confident that you will never let them down by getting "flu" even when an epidemic is raging.

Indomitable women don't



PENNY PERRICK

have too bad a time of it since, although they are not handed life on a plate, at least no one is going to stop them striding out and grabbing it. They do make mistakes, though, especially when they begin to miss all the sweet, feminine things in life, which leads them to fall hook, line and sinker for young men with blow-dried hair and pink cashmere pullovers who make a great salad dressing.

They can also become pretty nasty towards more domitable women who have regular hairdressing appointments and go all goofy when asked to fill in their own tax return. I am really quite ashamed of myself that, instead of taking a live and let live attitude towards women who take to their bed when they have a slight headache, I narrow my eyes and mutter "wimpette".

Luckily, for some of us, the indomitable seems to be right in style at the moment. First of all there were all those films starring Sally Field where our heroine fought for trade union recognition or harvested a cotton crop practically single-handed. Now there is *Out of Africa*, which has led to a craze in indomitable dressing, namely jodhpurs and those no-nonsense jackets.

With some trepidation, I bought a pair of jodhpurs, hoping that they didn't look as if my thighs were filling out the baggy bits. But they have been a big success. As a man with impeccable taste said, "They really bring you out." And that is more than a sweetly pretty taffeta party frock has ever been able to do.

## Homing in to a pigeon hole

Nicky Raynsford, the Labour candidate for Fulham, says that he is not "someone who espouses labels" and does not like to have a tag on him that reads "cuddly Left". And then he rather spoils his argument by sticking the label "pragmatic radical" on himself. Mr Raynsford is not the first person to find that labelling is unavoidable and that you might as well write out your own before somebody else does it for you.

Coming from rather a starry family, I progressed from being my mother's daughter,

through being introduced as my husband's wife and then my children's mother, which probably accounts for my rather negative personality. On the other hand, it gave people something to go on when forced into a situation where making conversation with me was imperative.

And I have fared better than most: for example, the lady who wherever she goes knows that her hostess is hissing behind her hand to the assembled company that she is so-and-so's ex-mistress. It is the "ex" that must rankle so.

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## A child's right to justice

The Government is planning to channel domestic disputes into a single court - but where will this leave the children?

The first step in a radical reform of the legal system to allow family issues, such as custody and divorce, to be taken into a new "family court" structure, is expected at Easter. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, will set out the Government's detailed plans and although the changes are not expected to become law until the next parliament, many experts believe it marks an end to the confusing and protracted system of hearings cases in spattered areas of jurisdiction.

At the moment family cases are heard before magistrates and judges who also deal with criminal matters - juvenile courts, magistrates' courts, the county court and the High Court. Because of their similarity with the adversarial procedures of criminal cases, hearings can actually widen the differences between parents, perhaps most damagingly in questions of access in divorce cases.

Some campaigners, however, believe the changes will not go far enough. Mary Ryan, of the Family Rights Group, believes the Lord Chancellor's plans will not provide the means to include children in care in the family court structure. Child care is currently the subject of a Department of Health and Social Security working party reported to ministers last September.

"At the moment you can have a child in care being the subject of proceedings in sever-



al different courts at once" Mary Ryan says. "Her mother might be applying for access in the juvenile court, her foster parents making application for her adoption in the county court, and the putative father applying for guardianship proceedings for custody in the High Court."

Family courts are a big success abroad

"The child gets the raw deal because everything is so confused and it takes so long for the final decision to be reached. Time works against parents who want to get their children home."

It is more than 10 years since the Finer Report advocated radical changes in the way our judicial system handles family matters. Finer's emphasis was on dealing with family breakdown in a humane way its conclusions reflecting the fact that care proceedings are often a response to marital collapse. Finer wanted to create a unified system of matrimonial law in impartial informal courts with an emphasis on conciliation

In the intervening years, despite all-party agreement on the need for change, there have been more than five million domestic cases through the courts - more than three million divorces, two million applications to vary orders in magistrates' courts and two million more domestic proceedings.

But there are other countries where unified family courts are already regarded as a success. In New Zealand, out-of-court conciliation helps couples to resolve questions related to children before they become involved in adversarial conflict. If that fails, there is an in-court process called mediation in which it is reported that 41 per cent of parties reach full agreement and a further 13 per cent reach partial agreement.

New Zealand has a single non-fault ground for divorce based on two years of living apart. In Australia the system works on one year apart.

In Ontario, Canada, both divorcing parents fill in a questionnaire and return it to an independent person, the official guardian. If the answers raise any matters of concern, a fuller investigation is carried out by a social worker attached to the official guardian's office and the results are reported to the court.

The Children's Legal Centre in London believes that children should have a standing in law and a right to independent legal representation. It advocates replacing the present system with one in which the resolution of family differences could be reached by discussion and agreement. There should be clear recognition that children are not peripheral to family determinations, but are important family members who should have a right to full consultation at all stages.

Alison Miller  
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## TALKBACK Porridge penitence

From Mrs Wendy Hawkin, Mill Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

I found Christine Brown's comments on giving up for Lent (Wednesday Page, February 12), very interesting. One of the reasons that so many of us need to go on a diet is our perpetual self-indulgence against which Lent is a necessary antidote.

My solution is to give up all food except porridge for Lent. This cannot except by an amazing stretch of the imagination, be called a diet and performs the function of abstinence (from flesh, fowl, fats, etc). It shows me that, for a short period at least, I am able to refrain from the excesses of our modern society - the year when I cannot tackle or maintain my Lenten regime will mean that the battle with self-control is completely lost.

And, of course, porridge is good for you: it contains all sorts of essential vitamins and other nutrients, especially as I have it made with salt and served with a dash of sugar and milk.

Mealtimes out can be provided for by taking supplies in a wide-necked vacuum flask, or by nibbling at oatcakes (which I allow myself for such occasions). Yes, there is a small weight loss each year, but the main benefit is to my character and, dare I say it, my soul.

The conclusive reason why giving up anything for Lent cannot be a diet is that the 40 days do not include Sundays, which are feast days (count the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter and check). Thus one can eat normally on the Sabbath a treat forbidden in those on a strict diet routine.



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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Short arm of the law

Members of the West Midlands constabulary may this week move towards jailing the county's police committee. The bizarre prospect arises from a long-running dispute over the force's rent allowances, which have not been increased by the committee since 1982. In the Birmingham High Court this Friday, I understand, the Police Federation will claim the committee is in breach of court orders that demand a review of the allowance (now averaging £30 a week) on the basis of the rental value of a £35,000 semi-detached house. The committee believes a fairer basis is a council house. The federation's secretary, Arthur Quinn, would not be drawn yesterday on whether writs were being taken out alleging contempt of court against each committee member. "Let's wait till Friday before we start mentioning things like contempt," he said. The police committee deputy chairman, George Law, is not amused by possible threat of the clink from his own coppers. "The federation gets more greedy every time we talk," he told me.

### Off target

Those really in the know this year? Members of the public workers' union, Nupe. Thanks to the union's information-packed official diary they know that the peasant and partridge shooting season has just ended and are no doubt counting the days to the "Glorious Twelfth", when grouse shooting starts. Nor need Nupe members, many of whom are at the bottom of the pay scale, ever be at a loss when in London. The diary comprehensively lists clubs to join - among them The Turf, Brooks and Whites. At least it is more useful than the NUR diary: the one union diary which has no map of the London Underground.

● Is London Underground planning to reintroduce horse power following technical hitches this winter? A notice at Baker Street station last week read: "Oats and water free."

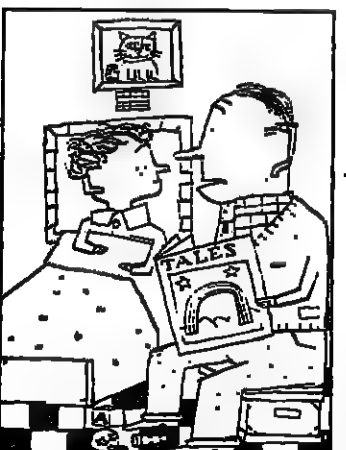
### Regulars

Those who liken the House of Lords when the division bells ring to Brands Hatch - wheelchair tyres squealing as peers rush to vote - should not mock Lord Shinwell, who is 102 in October, attended on 102 days of a possible 151 during the 1984-85 session and the second oldest peer, 98-year-old Lord Brockway, 138. Indeed, the attendance record of many of the old stagers, including Lords Stockton, Long and Boothby, is more impressive than that of quite a few young shavers next door.

### Double trouble

A politician friend couldn't believe his eyes when he read Robert Barnard's new political thriller *Political Suicide* about the mysterious death of a Tory MP. The prime suspect is the Labour candidate in the ensuing by-election. He bears an uncanny resemblance to a real-life Labour MP, Tony Banks, trendy, left-wing, chairman of the GLC's arts committee and the son of a diplomat. Yet Barnard makes the figure is entirely fictional. "I'd never even heard of Tony Banks until after I'd finished the novel and I started reading about him in the *Times Diary*," he said.

BARRY FANTONI



"And there at the end of the rainbow... was JMB"

### Voice under

I think I have found the man behind David Owen's odd speech in which he pleaded for more independent TV production companies and the cabling of Britain. SDP member Peter Montagnon, founder member of Antelope Films, makers of the recent Channel 4 series *The Heart of the Dragon*, has Owen's ear and has been helping to formulate SDP broadcasting policy. Even Montagnon, however, admits he cannot agree with Owen's idea to sell ITV franchises to the highest bidder. He added that Owen's comment that the broadcasting union ACTT was "as bad as the NGA" was an "over-simplification". He was not the only one who thought so. When Owen made the comment, at a *What the Papers Say* dinner, Thames Television MD Richard Dunn, not known for his union sympathies, went to pains to dissociate himself from the remark.

PHS

# How Lawson can go for jobs

by Terence Beckett

The task facing Nigel Lawson in preparing his Budget - now only two weeks away - is not an enviable one. Although Treasury figures published last week suggest that government finances may be recovering, the fall in oil prices, and the consequent fall in sterling, have probably deprived him of some £6 billion of revenue.

At the time of the 1985 Budget, Lawson expected to have as much as £3.5 billion for a fiscal adjustment in March this year. It now looks as if the sharp fall in oil prices has made this impossible. The Prime Minister herself appeared to recognize this in her *Panorama* interview last week, when she suggested that the main thrust of this year's Budget should be towards cutting the tax burden on the lower-paid.

The Confederation of British Industry would be delighted to see this done. In our representations to the Chancellor, we called on him to raise all personal allowances by 10 per cent more than the increase in the rate of inflation. This would take a million people out of tax altogether, at a cost of £2.1 billion.

It is interesting to contrast the effect of tax cuts and of raised thresholds. If it is cut off the basic rate of income tax, only 37p a week is added to the pay packet of a married man with two children earning half the national average. The cost of that 1p reduction is £1.1 billion. If the same sum were devoted to raising personal allowances, it would give the same person an extra £1.10 a week.

Our objective is to make work more attractive to the low-paid, and to ease the poverty and unemployment traps. An increase in personal allowances by more than inflation would reduce relative poverty levels and provide help and incentives for the young unemployed, who would find the value of what they could earn increased in comparison with what they could draw in state benefits.

But in spite of the widespread support given by CBI members to this proposal, it was not our main priority. What we urged Lawson to do first was to devote £1 billion to job-creation measures, targeted at the young and long-term unemployed, to provide jobs for up to a third of a million people within two years.

On *Panorama* Mrs Thatcher made it clear that while she was concerned about unemployment she did not see direct action as a priority. The Chancellor's first task, she said, was to improve incentives and purchasing power for "the bottom half" of the wage-earning population.

There is no doubt that easing the tax burden on these people would improve incentives and stimulate demand, thus creating new jobs. But the worst-off in this bottom half are the long-term unemployed, who have little prospect of improving their living

standards. Our proposals would do a great deal to help them.

Given the propensity of consumers to spend their money on imported rather than home-produced goods, to use the Budget just for tax cuts could do more to provide jobs for workers overseas rather than in Britain. Most Conservative backbenchers have recognized that the government's biggest problem is how to cope with the persistently high level of unemployment - at 3.4 million, nearly one in seven of those available for work.

Reducing unemployment must be the priority. That was the message the CBI council conveyed to the Chancellor two months ago. We called for a building improvement programme to provide temporary work for the long-term unemployed in the worst-hit areas; increased funding for urban development and derelict land clearance; training for the long-term unemployed under the Enterprise Allowance Scheme; lowering the early retirement age to 62 under the Job Release Scheme, and encouraging new and more flexible ways of working.

The government's own policies have contributed to an impressive pace of job creation over the last few years. In Britain today, a higher proportion of the population is working than in any other European country except Denmark. In the past two years,

700,000 new jobs have been created.

Critics argue that many of these are part-time, and of no real value. But for many people with other commitments and interests, part-time jobs are exactly what they want. Patterns of work, and leisure, are changing; more people will be taking part-time jobs.

Businessmen anxious to help cut the queue, believe trade and industry are capable of doing more. Many of the schemes for which the CBI is pressing depend on a partnership between business and government - in both finance and goodwill. Each scheme is based on existing government programmes.

The CBI's calculations are well supported, both in terms of cost per job and the number of jobs each proposal will produce, because each project is based on an extension or development of existing government services. The introduction of tax cuts in the midst of the present surge in consumer spending would be a high-risk strategy more likely to boost imports than create jobs here at home.

Business, in the face of competitive pressures, is keeping a close watch on its labour costs. We must now build on the positive benefits of lower oil prices, which will help increase world demand and reduce inflation. It is vital that industry takes advantage of this tremendous opportunity in export markets.

Sir Terence Beckett is Director General of the CBI.

## Geoffrey Smith pays tribute to Olof Palme, silver-spoon socialist who combined private courtesy with public abrasiveness

# The enigma always ready to do battle



over the years. It certainly made him an engaging one. I recall an occasion in Karlstad during a general election campaign some years ago when, leaving his hotel dining room, he was approached by a young worker who had one arm around his girl and draped the other around the prime minister's shoulder as he engaged him in conversation. Palme was neither embarrassed nor condescending.

Yet while the manner in private conversation could hardly have been more pleasant, those who saw Palme as a threat to the existing order were not mistaken. When he became prime minister in 1969 his party had been in office for 37 years and he was convinced that it was time to move on to a further stage of Social Democracy, beyond the provision of prosperity and basic

equality.

Perhaps Erlander would have formed the same judgement had he remained in office. He was certainly more radical than was generally appreciated, and left-wing governments that hold office for a long time do face a dilemma. If they do not change more and more they disappoint their more ardent supporters. But if they change too much they upset the wider electorate who prefer pragmatic rule.

Palme had no difficulty in resolving that dilemma to his satisfaction. He chose the radical course. He was eager for Sweden to move on from a society where there was equality of opportunity to one where there was equality of results as well.

But in doing so he was insensitive to the pressures of high

taxation, the frustrations of bureaucracy and the mounting evidence of middle-class protest. By the mid-1970s these discontents had reached serious proportions and were one of the principal causes of the Social Democrats' electoral defeat in 1976.

The party's difficulties were compounded by Palme's abrasive style of public debate, which contrasted with his private conversation and was disconcerting to the stolid Swedes. But the problems were inherent in the development of Swedish Social Democracy.

Sweden was never the model of a modern society that it was once supposed to be. Its level of direct taxation has for years been too high and its regulations too restrictive, even though one must recognize that the Swedes are a conformist people and may well find acceptable a degree of regulation that we would consider intolerable. But no society run indefinitely in defiance of its middle class can be an example to others.

The Social Democrats have been back in government for the past three and a half years largely through the failure of the non-socialist parties to offer a satisfactory alternative. Their support organization and management powers make them Sweden's natural governing party. But the tensions remain within the country and the government.

In his later years Palme appeared to mellow, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that he appreciated the political necessity of compromising more as his party's strength became uncertain. But within the government, there was still the ideological wing led by Palme and the pragmatic wing represented especially by the able and hardheaded finance minister, Kjell-Olof Feldt.

The immediate effect of the assassination should be to strengthen the pragmatists simply because the first priority must be to establish calm and to show that business is being conducted with practical good sense. But in the longer run this tension should be made endemic within a natural governing party of the left. It is bound to be torn over a period of time between the ideals of its more zealous members and the restraints of public opinion. That will continue to be the case in Sweden. But if the pragmatists lose their influence then the Social Democrats will cease to be the natural party of government.

It is for his private courtesy, his personal assurance and his sense of public service at home and abroad, rather than for his policies that I will value the memory of Olof Palme.

## Schooling: what London thinks

Anne Sofer

Regular readers of this column will recall the tale I told some weeks ago about the MORI opinion poll which the Inner London Education Authority partly misrepresented and partly suppressed. Since then events have moved on.

MORI has written to me explaining that any misrepresentations of its findings should be attributed entirely to the ILEA. And now, six months after my original query, I have been given permission to publish the true facts. Readers may wonder what possible justification there can have been for trying so long and so assiduously to keep them from the public eye.

The two opinion polls carried out by MORI in September 1984 and January 1985, paid for by the ratepayers and used by the ILEA in its publicity campaign, clearly showed a majority of Londoners were against government-imposed cuts in the education budget: 53 per cent strongly disapproving, 21 per cent "tending to disapprove" (not "strongly disapproving", as claimed by Frances Morrell, the ILEA leader, at the time).

But other interesting parts of both polls have remained unpublished. Questions were asked in the first poll about Londoners' perception of the quality of education, and in the second about their perception of how ILEA spends its money. Here support for the ILEA becomes more equivocal. Here are the figures on quality, showing a comparison of Inner and Outer London.

Question: "From what you know, how would you describe the quality of state education in this area?"

	Inner London	Outer London
Excellent	9	2
Very Good	29	16
Fairly Good	29	35
Fairly Poor	18	14
Very Poor	14	10
Terrible	8	8
Don't Know	21	16

Perhaps that is what you would expect in an inner city area. It is possible to point to the large number of "don't knows" as an explanation of the low positive response; and also to take comfort from the fact that a larger proportion of parents with a child at an ILEA school, than of the population at large, thought the quality of state education was at least "fairly good" (though 38 per cent thought they were "fairly poor" or worse). A startling result for the Labour Party, however, is that their voters are more likely than Conservative or Alliance voters to be dissatisfied with the quality of state education.

	% saying good	% saying poor
Con	44	37
Lab	39	42
Alliance	38	34

An analysis by class also seems to show an inverse relationship

	% saying good	% saying poor
Class AB	41	36
C1	42	37
C2	43	35
DE	33	46

Is this because the inner London education service, after more than 100 years of trying, has still not convinced working-class Londoners that education is for them? Or because a larger than normal proportion of DEs are old people who tend to have a dim view of modern education? Or because most DEs are concentrated in areas in a downward economic spiral which reflects itself in local institutions? Fascinating questions, worthy of further research.

The other uncomfortable findings for Labour are those on spending. Despite public resistance to the idea of cuts, Londoners showed a majority of Londoners were against government-imposed cuts in the education budget: 53 per cent strongly disapproving, 21 per cent "tending to disapprove" (not "strongly disapproving", as claimed by Frances Morrell, the ILEA leader, at the time).

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	Agree	Disagree
Class AB	41	36
C1	38	42
C2	35	44
DE	37	35

To the statement that "ILEA wastes a lot of money," 31 per cent agreed and 41 per cent disagreed - again an uncomfortably close result. And again, on both these questions those with a child at an ILEA school are more likely to support the ILEA position - 50 per cent and 52 per cent on the two questions respectively.

The picture that emerges from these figures is one that should be both an encouragement and a challenge to all those who believe in relatively high public spending on education and that the public services in inner cities are a potential force for good.

There is widespread support for maintaining, or increasing, levels of spending on education and a great inclination to trust ILEA's rather than the government's judgements in financial and educational matters. On the other hand, there is undoubted concern about quality and the way the money is spent.

Inner Londoners are willing to shell out for education, but they are not sure that what they have now is what they want or worth the money.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Get your free serf here

1986 is the 900th anniversary of the publication of the Domesday Book. Yes, that's right - 900 years ago the bookshelves of England were stacked with copies of the Domesday Book, the first-ever nationwide survey. Buy a copy and see how many sheep your neighbour has. You can't afford to be without Domesday Database... Expanding in the north? Get Domesday and study your market.

That was the idea. It didn't really work, of course. The world was not ready for the prototype of the Yellow Pages, because people in Worple-le-Fold were not really interested in how many plumpers and builders' merchants there were in Lower Pig's Froth. The Domesday Book did not sell. Three copies in 25 years. It isn't a lot, is it?

But now, 900 years later, things are different. Now we have mass marketing, and a facsimile copy of the Domesday Book will go like hot cakes, won't it?

Well, no, it won't. It was boring then and it is boring now. We are already two months into 1986, and not a single reprint of the Domesday Book has hit the bookshelves, not so that you would notice. There must be good reasons for this.

One reason is that the original compilers of the Domesday Book did not ask the right questions. There they were, with access to all the households of England, and they could have asked all the burning questions that pollsters now like to ask, such as:

- Do you think William I is doing a good/bad job?
- If there was an election now, would you vote Progressive Norman, Conservative Saxon, Bring back the Vikings?
- Do you think that Norman architecture is good/bad/a carbuncle on society/too modern/quite good, but rather cold in winter?
- Do you think that chastity belts should be made compulsory?
- But they didn't. They asked questions like:
- How many sheep have you got?
- How many cows?
- Well, what have you got, then?

No wonder the Domesday Book is a boring read. And no wonder that publishers, faced with the last anniversary before 2086, have shrunk before the prospect of investing thousands of pounds in a reprint which might again sell no more than three copies. What they have been waiting for is a publisher who would take the daring risk of bringing the Domesday Book up to date.

That publisher is Moreover Books Ltd. We have put all the facts from the Domesday Book on the computer, and we are now preparing a new edition which will incorporate all the old facts, plus your address. That's right. If you subscribe to our Domesday Book, your address and details will automatically be included. Say for instance, that you live at 127 Kelvedon Road, Colchester, then your edition of the Domesday Book will read as follows:

- Kelvedon Manor, 10 sheep, 13 cows, a goat, on 17 acres with three serfs thereto appertaining.
- 127 Kelvedon Road, 1 dog, 2 cats (Mimsy and Gelfof), 1 goldfish, dahlias and chrysanthemums, also leeks and spinach weather permitting, on 1/3 acre, no retainers except Mrs Threfall, the cleaning lady (Tuesdays and Thursdays), also black cat sometimes from next door.

Only your copy of the Domesday Book will have these details. It will be a book you can leave with pride on the livingroom table, opened at the right page. Look, you can say: we are in Domesday Book. Because only the computerized Moreover Domesday Book will include everyone who buys a copy.

But you must hurry to get yourself included. We aim to publish in June, and we must have all orders in by the end of March. Simply send us your domestic details to us, together with a cheque for £1,000, and we will ensure that you and your loved ones are engraved in the annals of English history forever.

Sorry, this offer does not apply to people living in Scotland, Ireland, infertile parts of Wales or any other region which remained unconquered by 1086.

Be in the Yellow Pages for 1086! You will never get another chance.

## Budget-cutters eye the Nato sacred cow

Washington President Reagan's televised winter offensive designed to win public support for his increasingly unpopular military build-up may signal hard times ahead for European defence programmes.

The first hard fact is that Reagan's \$320 billion military budget for the next financial year is in trouble. The second is that the European contribution to Nato is being criticized as inadequate - not only by a group of senior US senators but also by the public at large.

In this uneasy political year, already dubbed "the year of the budget" by political pollsters, America faces hard choices between guns and butter. Both arouse strong emotions.

Reagan recognised this when he appeared on television to say "I need your help" to continue a five-year military build-up that would produce high quality equipment, the MX missile, the Trident, the B-1 and stealth bombers.

Jim Wright, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, also recognized it when he gave the Democratic response: "We have enough weapons to kill ourselves ten times over." At home, Wright said, Washington is threatening the brainpower of US citizens by cutting investment in education to pay the cost of war.

The hard choices over budget

priorities are resulting in harsh scrutiny of the big items that have so far remained immune from the long arms of budget cutters. Of these, Nato is a prime target.

One study after another in recent months has taken aim at Nato as a "huge sacred cow" that can no longer be fed by American taxpayers. The notion that America is a "rich Uncle Sam" who has continued to pay an estimated \$120 billion to \$170 billion annually to defend Europe does not go down well with a middle class faced with unprecedented cuts in loans to pay for university education for its children.

It is also clear that sentiment building in both political parties against the continued, largely unquestioned, build-up of Nato began in the mid-1980s.

Until recently, Nato has been a foreign concept, something out of reach to a US public whose memories of the Second World War and Cold War have receded into a younger, contemporary maze of different problems. Over the past year, public attention has been galvanized by a series of studies pointing out the big proportion of US tax dollars targeted for European defence programmes.

The non-partisan Government Accounting Office reported that 56 per cent of US defence spending has been allocated to Europe in recent years. Gar Alperovitz, au-

thor of *Atomic Diplomacy*, estimated that 6.6 per cent of total US income has been devoted to defence spending, compared with only 3.9 per cent among European Nato members.

Last week, a study carried out by the *New York Times* reported that two-thirds of all US troops serving overseas are based in Europe and that Americans pay for 25 per cent of all Nato's tanks, compared to 20 per cent a few years ago. The economic argument is beginning to take hold.

What does all this mean to a country that fears the Soviet military threat but does not see itself as a nation "under the Russian bear's nose"? It means, in the words of the former Treasury Secretary, William Simon, that Americans increasingly find that "our Nato contributions are far out of proportion".

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia tried to make this point dramatically in 1984 when he attached an amendment to the 1985 defence authorization bill requiring the withdrawal of 90,000 American troops from Europe unless European nations increased their own defence spending.

The amendment was defeated but the senator, a Democrat and a strong supporter of Nato, made his point. Since then, others have joined the chorus of senators, among them the former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and

former National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who have urged new approaches in Europe.

This does not mean that Congress is about to demand a unilateral withdrawal of US troops from Europe or that efforts to modernize Nato will be greatly reduced. It does mean that Americans are beginning to listen closely to a groundswell of proposals to alter the US relationship with Nato - a relationship begun in 1950 when the Russian threat to western Europe was strong and the United States was a rich nation, not a nation strapped by a \$200 billion deficit.

Alperovitz, for example, has proposed a budget-cutting programme to Congress to reduce the US contribution by up to \$20 billion a year. Even then, he maintains, the US would still be shouldering more of the cost than Britain and West Germany combined. Others have proposed the unilateral withdrawal of forces from Europe.

The point is that in these times of hard choices, many Americans want Europeans to do more. Robert Komer, defence under-secretary for policy during the Carter administration, fears there is a danger of losing control of this growing opinion, which could strengthen isolationist sentiment.

Bailey Morris





## SETTLING NOTHING

Grand gestures of protest are great generators of myth and illusion. The first myth likely to be propagated about today's stoppage in Northern Ireland is that it somehow settles the question of the Anglo-Irish agreement. It can do no such thing.

There will no doubt be argument over exactly how much was stopped for how long and whether by intimidation or by free choice. The government will point to its patchiness and to the strategic and tactical confusion among unionist politicians. The strike organizers will point to the depth and breadth of their support and hint that an indefinite stoppage would force the government to meet their demand for the complete abandonment of the Hillsborough treaty.

A single day strike, although attracting a great deal of attention, cannot answer the key question: how far or how many members of the Protestant majority are ready to go on testing the government's will power? Today, many of them can stay at home, shut their shop, take their tractor to a roadblock without fear of serious consequences. What proportion of them would be ready to do the same indefinitely? Since the conditions of 1986 are not the same as those of 1974, when a strike brought down the power-sharing executive, there can be no precise answer in advance.

But the hesitant attitude of some unionist politicians, and of the Reverend Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionists in particular, may provide a clue. Dr Paisley, for all his implacable bluster, has seemed curiously reluctant to force the issue as early as this — until he, and the Official Unionists' Mr James Molloy, were pushed into it last week.

In 1986, the unionists are set to confront a Conservative Party secure in government which feels less sympathy for unionism than it did a dozen years ago. That sympathy is further diminished: the more

the protest is dominated by para-militaries or their political apologists. British public opinion sees, again, the spectacle of unionism setting out to destroy what British governments have tentatively built. It is not a sight calculated to win support for the unionist case among the mainland electorate.

It must be open to question whether the Hillsborough agreement has become enough of a target to persuade large numbers of people to take risks with their livelihood to destroy it. In 1974 there was a new local government, administering services alongside plans for a "Council of Ireland". This time there is a treaty, a barely visible secretariat and occasional communiques. Only certain causes will mobilize unionist reaction.

In 1977 Dr Paisley's booming strike call in favour of tougher security was humiliated by his own community. Twelve years ago the level of terrorist violence, and the accompanying fear and insecurity was far higher than now. More troops are today available to the government for strike-breaking. Lastly, there are the personalities at Downing Street. In 1974, unionists dealt with Mr Heath, distracted and then defeated by the miners, followed by Mr Harold Wilson (as he then was). They now face Mrs Thatcher.

None of these changes, by itself, guarantees that the Hillsborough agreement will survive, but taken together they offer a hope that the government will feel secure enough to call the unionists' bluff. The volatile flux of personalities and tactical disagreements which characterizes the various umbrella organizations promoting the strike is evidence enough that the real strength of opposition to the agreement cannot yet be measured. If the signs, and the rise of Dr Paisley's deputy, Mr Peter Robinson, at the front of the hardliners, show that there

is a solid grass-roots militancy ready to press an all-out strike, then the government will face the stiffest test immediately.

But the Official Unionists' insistence on trying to leave the door to talks open shows that they know they may have rejected too much too soon. They are vulnerable to the argument — which ministers should impress upon them — that they are trying to end an agreement that holds benefits and opportunities which they had not even tested, let alone enjoyed.

Unionism is more heterogeneous than sometimes appears. It is divided by class, between two mutually distrustful political parties, by differences of Protestant doctrine and over the ultimate aim of its political negotiations with governments in London. Moderate unionists continue to be nervous about finding themselves manoeuvred into the cul-de-sac of UDI. Extremist politicians can create an atmosphere in which it is impossible for moderates to be heard. But that is not necessarily the same as a climate in which hundreds of thousands of people will be prepared to paralyse the life of the Province for weeks on end.

But if that is what it does come to, the government's stance will need to switch from explanation to assertion of its control of essential services. It would be guilty of gross irresponsibility if it had embarked on the activities of the last few months without the capacity to defend itself against the ultimate unionist sanction. This more aggressive pose would be represented as the oppression of a democratic majority for unworthy ends; it would be the execution of Parliament's decision in the face of opposition from a minority within the United Kingdom. There is no better recruiting sergeant for terrorist organizations than a British government that cannot make its own political initiatives work.

## BACK TO BASICS

As the teachers' dispute has dragged on, some people have been tempted to depict Mr Fred Jarvis, General Secretary of the main combatant union, the National Union of Teachers, in demoniacal terms. Some, even more fancifully, have made comparisons with Mr Scargill. Events over the past few days might seem to have endorsed that view.

At a very late stage in negotiations, long after the other teacher unions had signalled their acceptance of a formula worked out in ACAS and secured their members' adherence to it, Mr Jarvis has threatened to bring the entire temple of a negotiated settlement down around their ears. The NUT has gone to lawyers and now claims that the very institution on which any settlement has to be based, the statutory Burnham negotiating committee, cannot legally refer to or even mention the essence of the agreement on assessment of teachers and their terms of work. Burnham meets later today in a mood of confusion and rancour.

The view of Mr Jarvis as a wreck is wrong. He is merely a union official, like others, worried about ambitious fellow officials and about political balance among his lay members. Like other public sector unionists he rarely has time to worry about the public.

But this weekend, Mr Jarvis has done a service. His intervention and threat of lawyers is apathy. There is a gross flaw in the very constitution of Burnham, something that has been obvious for years and something about which the government and Sir Keith Joseph have been entirely

complacent. By law, Burnham is a body of representatives of teachers' conditions of service. It has hardly been talked about within the confines of the committee where pay is considered. A legal verdict in the NUT's favour will, at long last, force the government to revise the Remuneration of Teachers Act.

Mr Jarvis has done more. Throughout the dispute he has displayed consistency. He wants more money for teachers and he wants it without strings. His union, representing a large number, does not want assessment, grading, or tightened contracts. They want, in short, the old irreponsibility with new levels of pay.

There is the major issue of the dispute. Not the old issue: it parallels the question of the relative adequacy of teachers' remuneration and the implied low value put on their work by their pay levels. But it is the issue that has to be settled, sooner or later.

According to the ACAS formula, it may be later. An agreement in Burnham will only lead to talks in another committee, the Council of Local Education Authorities/School Teachers Committee. So Mr Jarvis's intransigence dramatizes once again the reason why this dispute has lingered, at such cost to the day-to-day convenience of parents and with such harmful consequences to the reputation of publicly-maintained schools, individually and collectively.

There are those, parents and policy-makers, who at this

stage simply wish the dispute could be ended. What progress can be made on the new examinations at 16-plus. What progress on that vexed imbalance in teaching numbers in physics and mathematics, or craft, design and technology, what movement in the schools to parallel the reorganisation of education and training for 16-18 year olds being accomplished by the Manpower Services Commission... all depend on a new and better definition of the teacher's job and performance.

Educational progress does not just require an end to disruption of classes, lunchtimes and parents' evenings. It hinges on reform of the content of teachers' work. That reform may take time, give and take in negotiation in CLEA and other forums. But it is the precondition of forward movement in education policy. Mr Jarvis's opposition crystallises the point.

Burnham today faces sundry obstacles. The local education authorities naturally want reassurance that before new money is paid over, the teachers will perform their jobs as agreed. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers wants to know the status of disciplinary measures the local authorities are (rather late in the day) taking in some districts. But these are minor. Thanks to Mr Jarvis, the dispute has been refocused. The essential issue is the intimacy of extra money and reform of conditions of service. Until these are linked there should be no basis for settlement.

## Peace in Cyprus

From the London Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus  
Sir, Contrary to what your leader (February 18) suggests, it was not Mr Denktas who caused the breakdown of the UN initiative of January, 1985, nor has it been the Turkish Cypriot leader who has discouraged the right kind of climate for progress.  
In a leader on March 2, 1985 ("A Greek error"), *The Times* commented that Mr Kyprianou expressed "reservations" and "qualifications about every point" in the January document which "Mr Denktas was ready to sign", and that "For his blunder, the President (Mr Kyprianou) was

justly censured by an admittedly heterogeneous majority in the Greek Cypriot parliament, composed of his pro-Nato rival, Mr Glafcos Klerides on the one hand, and on the other of Communists". Similar points were made at the time by other leading international papers, including *The Economist* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Moreover, the political leadership in Athens and the Greek Cypriot leaders in Cyprus have hailed the wisdom and acceptability of the recent "Soviet proposals" on Cyprus. This is tantamount to a total rejection of all basic accords previously reached at various summit meetings between Turkish and Greek

Cypriot leaders since 1974. It also constitutes a fundamental divergence from the UN Secretary General's basic framework to settle the Cyprus problem.

The Greek Prime Minister, Mr Papandreu, who has his own axe to grind over the Aegean dispute between Turkey and Greece, appears to encourage Mr Kyprianou to keep the dispute alive in the hope that this will continue to be a source of international pressure on Turkey. And that is a big obstacle to durable peace in Cyprus.

Yours faithfully,  
TANSEL FIRKI,  
London Representative,  
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus,  
28 Cockspur Street, SW1.

## Backward look at better English

From Mr David Gadsby

Sir, Professor E.H. Brown and others (February 25) "are concerned at the near collapse in our schools' teaching of syntax of English". They repeat many of the assertions which were made to the Bullock Committee of Inquiry into the Use of English, whose report was published in 1975. May I, however, refer them to the opening of that report?

In any anxiety over a contemporary situation there is likely to be a wistful look back to the past, with a conviction, often illusory, that times were better then than now. And the times people claim to have been better are generally within the span of their own lives.

The report went on to quote evidence given to the Newbolt committee in 1921, where Vickers reported "great difficulty in obtaining junior clerks who can speak and write English clearly and correctly". Lever Bros said

it is a great surprise and disappointment to us to find that our young employees are so hopelessly deficient in their command of English", and Boots Pure Drug Co. remarked that the "teaching of English in the present day schools produces a very limited command of the English language."

Have Professor Brown and his colleagues any objective evidence for their assertion that the present-day school-leaver has a worse command of English than those school-leavers who were so criticized by Vickers, Lever Bros and Boots? The Bullock committee found no such evidence. It did, however, say that "standards of reading and writing need to be raised to fulfil the increasingly exacting demands made on them

by modern society" — which is quite another matter.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GADSBY (Member, Bullock committee),  
Joint Managing Director,  
A & C Black (Publishers) Limited,  
35 Bedford Row, WC1.

From Professor John Honey  
Sir, The biggest obstacle to the teaching of a more serviceable form of English (as recommended by the engineering professors, February 25) is the limitations of knowledge among the teachers themselves.

Reforms in the syllabus of teacher education courses in recent years have helped matters. But it is all too common to find class teachers who are not able to explain to pupils how language works, or even how to handle basic grammatical terminology. They are mostly products of that long era when the myth prevailed that the teaching of formal grammar produced no demonstrable improvements in pupils' writing. Research is exposing that myth, but its ill effects have been compounded by the virtual disappearance of Latin from most schools and the present decline in the teaching of French and other modern languages, which at least gave pupils a general understanding of how language works.

Any realistic campaign to improve English language teaching in schools and in higher education would require extensive retraining of teachers which, to be effective, would have to be both compulsory and tested.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HONEY,  
5 Woods Close,  
Oadby, Leicester.

## "Thinking big"

From Lord Balfour of Burleigh  
Sir, Sir John Hoskyns is right in saying (February 20) that anyone interested in the Government's policy towards BL should read David Watt's article of February 14, which deals with all foreign industrial investment into this country.

Having picked my way through various targets vigorously attacked by Sir John, I hope I understand him correctly in advocating a free-marketing economy.

David Watt, in reporting his discussions with bankers and industrialists, moves forward from acceptance of a free market in practice to the very important conclusion that Britain's interests in the case of inward investment are best safeguarded if those who make the corporate decisions live in this country. Those who have run companies overseas in this way will know how important this is both to the company itself and to the host country.

## Obscenity and law

From the President of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, In view of the personalised nature of your leader's writer's attack (February 24), may I make it clear that the so-called "laundry list" of perverted sexual practices was not part of the Bill we offered to Mr Churchill. Our Bill was concerned, first, to make a reality of the unfulfilled intention of Parliament "to strengthen the law on pornography" with the Obscene Publications Act (1959).

We proposed, first, that the clause "a tendency to deprave and corrupt" be replaced by one which provided for the judgement of "a reasonable adult at the time that person first reads, hears or sees the matter concerned". And secondly, our Bill would have removed the exemption within the present Act which excludes broadcasting from any charge under its provisions.

It may also be of interest to your readers to know that we asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to institute proceedings, under the Broadcasting Act, against the BBC for allowing the transmission of the films *Jubilee* and *Sebastian*.

In his reply (February 17) the Director states that in view of "the exemption provided by the Obscene Publications Act", and the fact that the breach of the duty

imposed by the Broadcasting Act 1981 "does not create a criminal offence" he is of the view that "the criminal law cannot be invoked" in this matter.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY WHITEHOUSE,  
President, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,  
Ardleigh,  
Colchester,  
Essex,  
February 24.

From the Controller of BBC1  
Sir, Mr Winston Churchill's letter (February 27), in which he quotes from a private conversation, misrepresents my position on his proposed amendments to the Obscene Publications (1959) Act.

He has ignored the context of my remarks. I told him that if Parliament was determined to enact the legislation in this area, broadcasters could, in the last resort, live with the original 1959 test of obscenity slightly more comfortably than with his damaging "laundry list".

Mr Churchill's subtle implication is that I support broadcasting being brought under the 1959 Obscene Publications Act. I do not.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GRADE,  
Controller, BBC1,  
BBC Television Centre,  
Wood Lane, W12,  
February 28.

## Oil price question

From Professor Emeritus John Fremlin

I find David Hall's assumption (February 21) that the present drop in oil prices should determine CEEB policy on Sizewell almost incredibly shortsighted. The world's oil is very limited and when the present glut has been used the finding and exploitation of new supplies, with the inevitable increase in world population and consequently of demand, must inevitably be more expensive than ever before. Any North Sea oil that we can save now will be worth several times as much in a decade or so's time.

If the Sizewell power station is built it will be working for two or three decades into next century, when any oil that we can save now can be an export of enormous value; and the coal that is then saved will be available for the production of the liquid or gaseous fuel that we shall vitally need when the oil runs out.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FREMLIN,  
46 Vernon Road,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham,  
February 22.

## Traitors in 1940

From Sir John Winniffrith

Sir, My former colleague, Hugh Gardner, recalls in his letter (February 22) his successful transport of the sheep on Romney Marsh in the invasion scare of 1940. For this operation he deserves great credit, (though what happened to all the cattle left behind to be slaughtered by the Germans?)

The War Office, however, get no credit if what they told the Ministry of Agriculture describes their plan to deal with a German invasion of South-east England by breaching the embankments and flooding Romney Marsh.

This had indeed been the plan favoured by George III in 1794. The list of 21 farmers here in Appledore, their wagons and their orders for the route they were to follow into the Weald still survive. The same plan was dusted and handed to the GOC, General Sir David Dundas, when, in 1804, Napoleon was mustering his Armée d'Angleterre and preparing his landing craft in all the adjoining creeks and harbours.

The general sent his staff officer for field works, Lt Col John Brown, to "reco" the marsh. He speedily discerned that it was impossible to flood the marsh by

## Success story of the vicuña

From the Hon President of the Peruvian Zoological Society  
Sir, I would like to pay tribute to the World Wildlife Fund for its help in saving the vicuña from extinction. This gentle member of the cameloid family lives in the Andes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. It produces the finest wool in the world, but unfortunately its golden fleece makes it an attractive prey to the poacher.

In 1962 Ian MacPhail, International Campaigns Director of the fund, arranged for the Ministry of Overseas Development to send the distinguished conservationist, Major Ian Grimwood, on a two-year study, which resulted in a blueprint on which all Peruvian conservation laws and national parks are based. He suggested that there were about 5,000 vicuña left in Peru and 5,000 to be found in the other three Andean countries.

Acting on his advice, reserves were established, guard-posts were constructed and what followed is one of the greatest conservation success stories in the last 50 years. The Peruvian population was increased to 100,000 and total population within the habitat range is now something like 140,000.

Two years ago it was found possible to capture and shear the vicuña (as the Incas did) and translocate them over long distances to other suitable areas on the basis of not having all the golden eggs in one basket.

It is hoped in the not too distant future that cloth woven from sheared live vicuña bearing proper identification marks will be on legal sale on the luxury markets of Europe, thus benefiting both the vicuña and the local peasant.

Last year the President conferred the highest honour in Peru — the Orden del Sol del Peru — on Ian MacPhail for his services to conservation in Peru over the past 23 years. He is the first naturalist ever to receive it.

In a recent letter to me the Duke of Edinburgh said, "It is encouraging to know that the Peruvian Government is willing to reward those who work for conservation". I would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Great Britain for its help and support in the past.

Yours faithfully,  
FELIPE BENAVIDES,  
Hon President,  
Peruvian Zoological Society,  
335 Avenida El Golf Los Inkas,  
Monterrico,  
Lima,  
Peru,  
February 21.

## Tax anomaly

From Mr John F. Avery Jones

Sir, Mr Tester (February 26) is a little unfair in suggesting that whether more than one acre of garden is exempt from capital gains tax depends on the whim of a particular district valuer. In fact, the additional area is the amount the special or general commissioners (independent appeal bodies) are satisfied, having regard to the size and character of the house, is required for the reasonable enjoyment of the residence.

Since the criteria are laid down, a taxpayer will be able to obtain advice on the likely result if he took an appeal to the commissioners.

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. AVERY JONES,  
Bouverie House,  
154 Fleet Street, EC4,  
February 26.

## All-rounder

From Mr A. A. Mort

Sir, Can anyone better my total of 18 jobs, all with different employers — page boy, errand boy, lift attendant, waiter, bar-cellarman, dining-car attendant, dairy worker, gas-board fitter, electrician's mate, stage artist, farm-hand, clerk, rent collector, Regular soldier, handymen, painter, furnaceman, laundry hand?

No, I never owned a bike! Yours faithfully,  
A. A. MORT,  
4 Denison Road,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

letting in the sea. It needed three or four high tides to flood even part of it and most of the water that came in on the flood returned to the sea on the ebb.

The general scrapped the plan and adopted Col Brown's alternative of building the Royal Military Canal, with Col Twiss's Martello towers defending the coast. The canal, though also a useful defence line, was primarily to provide rapid transport of men and munitions to whatever point was threatened by invading troops.

If my colleague's report of what the War Office told him in 1940 is a true reflection of their defence plan, they had failed to study Col Brown's conclusions or to get proper advice about the possibility of flooding the marsh. The Germans did better. Their invasion plan (in the Imperial War Museum) provided for a parachute drop behind Hythe and a number of landings along the coast. Even a flooded marsh would have been no problem. Access to a harbour would have been much more difficult.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WINNIFRITH,  
Hallhouse Farm,  
Appledore,  
Ashford, Kent.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 3 1986

In traversing the Antarctic the British team led by Dr Vivian Fuchs had the support of a New Zealand one led by Sir Edmund Hillary. Awaiting Dr Fuchs's arrival was a telegram from Downing Street announcing the conferment of a knighthood upon him. The expedition's triumph was one which had been denied another great explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, whose imperial expedition of 1914 met disaster when his ship the *Endurance* was crushed in pack ice.

## TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

From Our Special Correspondent

SCOTT BASE, March 2  
Dr Vivian Fuchs, leader of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition, and his party reached Scott Base today, completing their journey across the continent — the first to be accomplished — in 99 days. They left Shackleton base, 2,200 miles away, on November 24.

Arms linked, Dr Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary stepped from the ice of Antarctica to the snowy shores of Ross Island at 1.47pm. Dr Fuchs and his men brought their vehicles to the final halt within sight of a memorial to another Englishman whose name will always be part of Antarctica. Above the party, on the top of Observation Hill, stands the cross to the memory of Robert Falcon Scott and his four companions. Its inscription reads: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

When he left his last camp this morning, Dr Fuchs had the blunt pinnacle of Castle Rock on Ross Island sharply on his horizon, more than 20 miles away. He steered for this until the jagged black shadows and gleaming white faces of an icefall on the Scott Base side of Castle Rock gave him an aiming point more directly in the line of the mark which stood at the head of the final route home: an aircraft windcock, with its pole thrust into an empty petrol drum, billowing out 10ft above the snowy ground.

FLUTTERING FLAGS  
Churning out of this little area of ski-resort loveliness, the Sno-cats ran along the partly prepared lift aircraft landing strip now bulldozed by the Americans here, and came at last within sight of Scott Base itself. Up on the hill above the parked aircraft and the lines of base stores and the huge mound of freshly cut seal meat, Dr Fuchs and his men saw the first of the lemon and red Scott Base buildings. And high on the hill flew the Union Jack.

All their flags fluttering, the four Sno-cats were beamed in at once by the camera-clicking men from Scott Base and from the American base at Hut Point. Very placidly shot up coloured charges in noisy welcome. Looking almost dazed in the face of the excitement around him, Dr Fuchs, wearing his black helmet, his white polo-necked sweater, his blue windbreaker trousers, and red-throated soft leather footwear, climbed out of the cabin of the leading vehicle with Sir Edmund Hillary. "A piece of cake," was their comment. The American band played as the explorers mounted the hill.

Dr Fuchs was handed a sheaf of congratulatory telegrams which had already begun to come in, and he disappeared into the radio room to send his own messages out. A few minutes later he began a news conference with the representatives here from newspapers and broadcasting services in all parts of the world.

Dr Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary arrived at Scott Base in a completely amiable relationship. They are now — as they have been all along — two men able to discuss opposing views without losing their balance or their respect for each other. The former controversy (which was not of their making) given added point to their linking of arms when the job they set out to do was finished.

Each man had the courage of his convictions. After Sir Edmund Hillary had made his recommendation that the journey should be abandoned at the Pole, and Dr Fuchs had declined to accept this recommendation, their partnership went ahead in all respects as before. In spite of his own doubts about being on the plateau so late in the season, and accepting the possibility that he might be caught for the winter, Sir Edmund Hillary joined Dr Fuchs at Depot 700 to give the party the benefit of his local knowledge. Without this help the vehicles could well have been a fortnight later reaching Scott Base.

Yours faithfully,  
CATHERINE CRAIG,  
Treslothan House,  
Treslothan,  
Camborne,  
Cornwall,  
February 25.

## Smooth operator

From Mrs Catherine Craig

Sir, Deep snow in west Cornwall is a rare and wonderful sight, but not quite so rare and wonderful as the subsequent sight of a young man sliding effortlessly down the hill outside my house standing upright on his surfboard.

Yours faithfully,  
CATHERINE CRAIG,  
Treslothan House,  
Treslothan,  
Camborne,  
Cornwall,  
February 25.

## Enter, a bear

From Mr Ivan Stringer

Sir, How does March go out when it comes in like a polar bear? Yours faithfully,  
IVAN STRINGER,  
4 Langdons,  
Sherborne,  
Dorset,  
February 26.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
March 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, President of The Royal London Society for the Blind and of The Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, was present this evening at a Gala Dinner and Fashion Show given by Sightline in aid of London's Blind at the Inter-Continental Hotel, London. Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Princess Anne, Senior Warden of the Company of Carmen, will attend a livery dinner on March 11 at the Mansion House. Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a reception for the Stop Polio board members at 2 Belgrave Square, W1, on March 12. Prince Andrew will attend the British premiere of *Young Sherlock Holmes* at the Plaza Cinema, Lower Regent Street, on March 12, in aid of the Royal Star and Garter Home.

## Birthdays today

Mr Ernest Bradbury, 67; Miss Jean Kassall, 80; Air Vice-Marshal C.G. Maughan, 63; Lord Mellish, 73; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, 68; Mr M.P. Phillips, 30; Mr Hugh Radcliffe, 75; the Right Rev Dr R. Richards, 85; Dame Enid Russell-Smith, 83; Mr Ronald Searle, 66; Lord Templeman, 66; Sir John Ward, 77.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Hanson and Miss H.L. Robson  
The engagement is announced between Daniel, elder son of the Right Rev R.P.C. and Mrs Hanson, of Wiltshire, Cheshire, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Robson, of Stone, Staffordshire.

Mr A.H. Collins and Miss P.R. Bailey  
The engagement is announced between Anthony Howard, son of Mr Michael Collins, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and of Mrs Ann Collins, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Patricia Rosemary, daughter of Sir Derrick Bailey, Bt, of Blue Stones, Alderney, Channel Islands, and of Nancy Lady Bailey, of Lyonsall, Kingston, Herefordshire.

Mr P.J. Conroy and Miss P.A. Fuller  
The engagement is announced between Paul John, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.D. Conroy, of Clarendon Road, Redhill, Surrey, and Paula Anne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs P.M. Fuller, of The Glade, Kingswood, Surrey.

Mr E.J.G. Geddes and Miss L.A. Milner  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Grange, son of Mr and Mrs E.G. Geddes, of St John's, Worcester, and Lesley-Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Milner, of Stalford, Northumberland.

Mr J.E.C. Gibbs and Miss C.M. Bourne  
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey Edward Carlton, elder son of Mr and Mrs Derek C. Gibbs, of Liphook, Hampshire, and Jennifer Mary, youngest daughter of Mr John S. Bourne and the late Mrs Hazel Bourne, of Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr C.E.M. Gilbertson and Miss N.L.B. Lloyd-Phillips  
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Gilbertson, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Nicola Lloyd-Phillips, of Langwarren, Letterston, Pembrokeshire, younger daughter of the late Major and Mrs John Lloyd-Phillips.

Mr G. Pottle and Miss C.A. Sharkey  
The engagement is announced between Graham, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Pottle, of Paisley, Scotland, and Caroline Anne, only daughter of Mr C.J. Sharkey, CMG, MBE, and Mrs C.J. Sharkey, of Cockfosters, Hertfordshire, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

# Enduring lesson of martyrdom

Clifford Longley

Another 85 English Reformation martyrs are soon to be beatified and raised to the status of "Blessed", one step short of sainthood. The event may raise apprehensions, if not hackles, in the Church of England; and probably a good deal of mystification in English society generally. Pope Paul VI canonized 40 English martyrs in 1970, an event anticipated as likely to reopen wounds on both sides but in the event saved by some exceedingly generous and warm words from him towards the Church of England. He referred to it in the canonization ceremony as "our beloved sister" whose patrimony of tradition and identity was not to be threatened by church unity. His words have since been cherished in Anglican circles as proof that ecumenical negotiations are not a betrayal of Anglican identity.

The cause of the "Forty Martyrs", as they were known, had become an immensely popular focus of devotion in the Roman Catholic community, and they have since given their names to many new churches. There is no equivalent popular following for the "Eighty-Five Martyrs" now, but Vatican canonization processes have a momentum of their own. The results of those processes do not always bear any relation to nuanced calculations of inner-church, or inter-church, politics.

Of the 85, whose "cause" was formally promoted to Rome in 1978 by Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, eight were laymen and the rest priests. They were executed, mostly by hanging, drawing and quartering and the rest by hanging, under the penal statutes of Elizabeth I, particularly the Act of 1585 which made it a capital offence for a Catholic priest to enter England. The walls of the English College in Rome carry hardwearing paintings recording their martyrdoms. In all, there are said to be 360 known executions of Catholics under Henry, Elizabeth, and James I in England and Wales. The original 40, now officially saints, were the best attested and easiest to deal with; and the subsequent 85, now being promoted one step higher, represent a selection of the rest.

The Catholic Church has always held that they died for the faith, certainly being a Catholic, and acting in furtherance of the Catholic religion, was what they were charged with. Outside that community, however, this host of heroic figures is very largely forgotten. They were of a generation with Raleigh and Drake, and in their own way showed the same swashbuckling courage and enterprise. But the "received" version, of English history has rather written them off as unfortunate victims of the religious-political ferment of their time. English history has made more of the fires of Smithfield and the martyrdoms of Mary Tudor's reign - but history is always written by the winners. It comes as a great surprise to most Englishmen to learn that Elizabeth executed more Catholics than Mary did Protestants.

Nevertheless, Elizabeth had been excommunicated by Pope Pius V, along with all who obeyed her, and he declared her subjects to be released from their oath of allegiance. So those priests who were smuggled into England, who passed in disguise round the countryside pursued by priest-hunters, and for whom ingenious hiding holes were created in the homes of their protectors, were engaged necessarily in a dangerous and subversive political mission as well as a religious one.

Their activities were indeed treasonable according to the law of the land, whatever their intentions, for merely by promoting Catholicism and attending secretly to the religious needs of Catholics they were automatically undermining the Crown.

Some 16 years after the canonization of the Forty Martyrs the climate has changed considerably, and the point has been reached when the inheritors of both sides of the Reformation divide can look back dispassionately at what went on. It is no longer taboo on one side, for instance, to point out that the religion which the martyre-

priests of the Elizabethan period died for was probably still the majority faith of the English people.

It is no longer taboo on the other to ask whether Pius V's handling of his English problem was calamitously incompetent and arrogant. He made claims for the authority of the papacy over temporal rulers which now seem incredible. Certainly no modern Pope would dream of thinking that he could release the citizens of a state from their loyalty to it. But they were far different times.

The lesson of the martyrdoms to which Rome is shortly to draw attention by the beatifications is that neither states nor popes nor parties have the right to coerce religious belief, and those who pay the penalty of their defiance when this is tried must be honoured, whatever their particular cause.

The lesson to be rejected is that the religious quarrels which took good men to a horrible death need further stirring to add to that honour. If they are truly saints in heaven, they must surely rejoice in the pacification of England's religious history in the centuries since they died.

Princess Anne will present the Ritz Club Charity Trophy at the Cheltenham National Hunt Racing Festival on March 13.

## Marriages

Lord Hallam of St Marylebone, CH, and Miss D. Shannon  
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 1, 1986, at the Church of Our Lady, St John's Wood, London. Of Lord Hallam of St Marylebone, CH, and Miss Deirdre Shannon, elder daughter of Mr Margaret Briscoe and the late Captain Peter Shannon. Father Charles McGowan officiated.

Mr D.M.J. Warren and Miss M.S. Debenham  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St George's, Hanover Square, of Mr David Warren, eldest son of Dr and Mrs J. Warren, of Southminster, Essex, and Miss Mary Debenham, younger daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs A.S. Debenham, of Lingfield, Surrey. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father, and Mr Hendrik Bosman was best man.

A reception was held at Claridge's hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.N. Browne and Miss C.E. Bails  
The marriage took place on March 1, 1986, at St Giles' Church, Badger, Shropshire, between Mr Nicholas Browne, elder son of Sir Humphrey Browne and the late Lady Browne, and Miss C.E. Bails, of Shifnal, Shropshire, and Mrs Carla Bails, only daughter of Mrs Phyllis Haselstine, of Cheltenham, and Mr Marshall Haselstine, of Montrose, Surrey.

Captain H.D. Affrey and Miss J.H. Burgess  
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, of Captain David Affrey, Royal Scots Dragon Guards, and Miss Judith Burgess, daughter of Major H.J. Affrey, of 25b Wilton Row, London, SW1, and February 22, 1986.

Baron Waldemar von Teck-Hohenstein and Mrs U. Malloch Brown  
Baron Waldemar von Teck-Hohenstein and Mrs Ursula Malloch Brown were married on Saturday in Cologne, Germany, on February 22, 1986.

The marriage took place at Ashville, North Carolina, United States, on Saturday, March 1, 1986, of Mr Mark McCormack and Miss Beisy Nagler.

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English history has made more of the fires of Smithfield and the martyrdoms of Mary Tudor's reign - but history is always written by the winners. It comes as a great surprise to most Englishmen to learn that Elizabeth executed more Catholics than Mary did Protestants.

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## OBITUARY

MR OLOF PALME

Swedish role on the world stage



Mr Olof Palme, who was assassinated in Stockholm on February 28 at the age of 59, was both the most controversial and the most internationally famous of Swedish Prime Ministers in modern times. He held the office for 10 years out of the past 16, and had been elected for another term only last September.

That he should be controversial was perhaps inevitable for a left-wing Social Democrat from an upper-class background. Circumstances made it all the more likely. He succeeded his mentor, Tage Erlander, in 1969 after the party had been in office for 37 years. The less contented objectives of Social Democracy had been achieved, with the development of a prosperous economy, full employment and welfare services.

So it fell to Palme to demonstrate to the electorate and to younger radicals within the party that the Social Democrats had not run out of ideas. He did this by pressing ahead with programmes for greater economic and social equality, which naturally aroused opposition.

His approach to foreign affairs also drew controversy. He was not sympathetic to Communism, but especially during his earlier years in public life, he appeared to take particular relish in criticising the United States. He was not reluctant to offer his advice to other Western governments, sometimes to their irritation.

But he was a man of broad international perspective. As the years passed, he occasionally appeared to draw greater stimulation from the challenge of international than of national problems. His interest in world affairs, however, was never a mere search for diversion. He took his responsibilities seriously as a vice-president of the Brandt Commission on the gap between the rich and poor countries, as chairman of his own commission on disarmament and as an assiduous if unsuccessful mediator on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General in the war between Iran and Iraq.

A small, alert, articulate man of great personal charm, his manner was totally unpretentious. He loved an argument, which he could conduct with complete ease in a variety of languages, but he never pulled rank.

He leaves the memory of one of the most vibrant figures in Nordic political history, and of a man who made a remarkable impact on the world for the leader of a small country.

Palme came from a patrician line of senior civil servants, bankers and lawyers. Born on January 30, 1927, he lost his father at the age of seven, went to an exclusive boarding school in Sigtuna, and read law at Stockholm University. He then went to Kenyon College, Ohio, in 1947-48 and there formed an abiding admiration for the American radical tradition.

Thus far he was a characteristic product of his milieu. As an officer of the Student's Union's International Committee, he began to gravitate towards the left. He was outspokenly critical of the Communist take-over in Prague in 1948 (he married a Czech girl there secretly in 1949 solely in order to help her out of the country and they divorced soon afterwards). In 1950 he attended the IUS Congress in Prague and was booed in company with other Western delegates.

Then, while at the Ministry of Defence in Stockholm, he was asked in 1953 to become personal assistant to the Prime Minister Tage Erlander, in which capacity he continued for ten years.

It was during his decade as Erlander's right-hand man that the Swedish public sector and social services expanded greatly in a general spirit of optimism.

In 1965 he was appointed Communications Minister, and in 1967 he became Education Minister and faced hostile criticism from rebellious students of the 1968 protest movement, angry over reforms inaugurated by his predecessors.

Palme's passionate advocacy of the cause of underprivileged peoples and countries and his belief in the moral guilt of colonial powers had been a constant feature of his political life since his student days, but the Vietnam war focused these issues sharply for him. While Education Minister in 1968 he fiercely attacked US policy and



in 1969 Erlander retired and Palme was elected Chairman of the Social Democratic Party and became Prime Minister. Unlike the preceding two golden decades of expansion, the 1970s and 1980s were characterised by economic problems and increasing ecological and social anxiety. In 1976 the Social Democrats lost the election, and for the first time for 40 years Sweden had a non-socialist government.

It was during his six years as leader of the opposition that Palme was most active on the world scene. The Brandt Commission was set up by the Socialist International in 1976, and under its aegis Palme led a delegation to southern Africa in the following year. He founded the commission on disarmament and security problems in 1980, with the aim of working for general disarmament, to be achieved stage by stage, starting with a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe.

When the Social Democrats won the 1982 election, two issues dominated the early years of his new government. One was the government's statutory implementation of the "Wage Earners' Investment Fund", whereby a percentage of profits from all enterprises is collected and re-invested in industry by trustee boards largely made up of trades union representatives. The non-Socialist opposition regarded this as leading to state control of industry.

The other issue was the repeated violation of Swedish waters by Soviet submarines and there was criticism that Palme might have taken a tougher stance towards Moscow.

In foreign affairs Palme cherished the ideals of American democracy, as he saw them, but showed no inhibitions about criticising when he thought America failed to live up to them. In the case of the Soviet Union, on the other hand, he had no wish to align himself with militant anti-Communism and a longstanding Swedish tradition of Russophobia.

## TOMMY FARR



Tommy Farr, who died on March 1 at the age of 71, was a boxer, who though he reigned briefly as British and Empire Heavyweight Champion before the war, will be best remembered for his brave and resourceful challenge for the world heavyweight crown of Joe Louis in 1937.

Though losing the decision on points over 15 rounds Farr did what so many of the Brown Bomber's championship opponents failed to do: he stayed the distance, took the fight to Louis, absorbed some of the champion's best punches and - the greater tribute to his skill - evaded a great many more.

Farr was born in Tonypandy in the South Wales coalfield and began fighting at 16 to escape a life at the coalface which seemed at that age to be his ineluctable destiny. After a few six rounds he joined a fair-ground boxing booth wherein it was possible to earn the sum of £1 for staying three rounds with him.

Later he left Wales and settled for a time in Slough, which then had a substantial emigrant Welsh population. As he recalled in later years he banked his total assets to that date with the local branch of Lloyds Bank, assuming it to be a native institution.

Until 1933 his career - managed by the trainer "Joby" Churchill, who was to be his life long mentor - had been largely in Wales, but from 1934 he fought a number of fights in London. In this year, too, he won the Welsh light heavyweight title from Charlie Bundy in Trefael and informed opinion began to notice him.

In 1936 wins over two experienced Americans, former world light heavyweight champions, Tommy Loughran and Bob Olin, further enhanced his reputation and in September 1936 he knocked out Jimmy Wilde in Swansea, taking the Welsh heavyweight title.

The next year was to be the zenith of his career. He began

to march to the American Embassy in Stockholm at the head of a demonstration, being photographed next to North Vietnam's ambassador to Moscow. The Americans recalled their ambassador from Sweden.

However, Palme was equally outspoken about the Russian tanks which rolled into Prague that same year and publicly condemned the "henchmen of dictatorship" who ousted Alexander Dubcek.

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To Americans he was just another "burn from Europe", but he surprised them, as well as Louis, in a skilful display, backed up by aggression and stamina. Unwowed by Louis's fearsome reputation, Farr forced the pace from the outset and then weathered some heavy counter attacks. In the event he took six rounds off the champion in spite of a cut eye, and finished strongly in a way which won the affection of the Madison Square Garden crowd. At home he became a national hero.

This was the apogee of his career. He stayed on in America until 1939 taking on the best of the American opposition but losing all his remaining fights against James Braddock, Lou Nervo, Red Burman and Max Baer, who avenged himself for his Harrington defeat by handing out severe punishment over 15 rounds, flooring Farr three times during the contest.

In what remained of his career before he was effectively ended by Farr, he avenged himself against Burman on points at Harrington and beat the Canadian Larry Gains in five rounds at Cardiff.

When war broke out Farr joined the RAF but was discharged with defective eyesight.

In 1950 at the age of 36 he made an astonishing comeback after 10 years out of the ring and actually got as far as the final climber for the British title within three years. But further progress was halted by Don Cockell in seven rounds at Nottingham and he retired with his wife to the house which he had bought on the Sussex coast.

He had been a boxer of dignity and continued to live like a man of dignity. He was a likeable character and on his rare appearances on television he brought to his reminiscences a fluency and passion which took a younger audience - accustomed to something less articulate but the average ex-pug - by surprise.

## HIS HON JUDGE SIR THOMAS WILLIAMS

Sir Thomas Williams, QC, a former Labour MP and, since 1981, a Circuit Judge, died on February 28 at the age of 70. Born in Aberdare, the son of a miner, he was educated at University College, Cardiff, St Catherine's College, Oxford, and the University of London.

He became a Baptist Minister in 1941 and was Bursar and tutor at Manchester College, Oxford.

He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1951. He was Recorder of Birkenhead from 1969 to 1971. In his Parliamentary career he had held three seats for Labour: Hammersmith South (1949-55), Baron's Court (1955-59) and Warrington (1961-81).

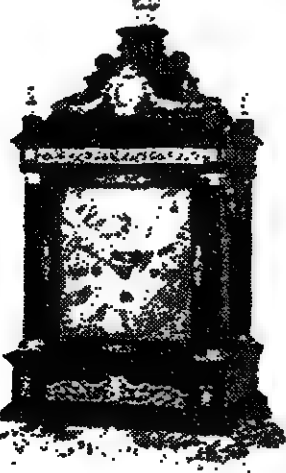
He had been Parliamentary Private Secretary to three ministers: Minister of Pen-

sions (1950-51), Minister of Health (1951), and Attorney General (1965-67). He retired from Parliament on becoming a full-time judge. He was chairman of the British Group of the International Parliamentary Union, 1974-76, and a member of the advisory council on public records (1965-71) and of the Advisory Council on Statute Law (1974-81).

He was a member of the Law Society and the Law Society of Wales.

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For further details, please call:  
Andrew Avenell on 01-236 8192  
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23 College Hill, London EC4.

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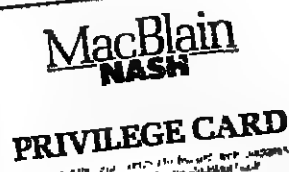
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BASE  
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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

US NOTEBOOK  
Consensus  
wrong on  
bond yieldsFrom Maxwell Newton  
New York

The prediction by 25 of the most prestigious names in American economic forecasting that the yield on 30-year US treasury bonds would rise from 9 per cent at the end of December to 9.45 per cent on June 30, 1986, and to 9.76 per cent on December 31, 1986, had only one significant disclaimer - Mr Gary Schilling, a long-time bear on the US economy.

He predicted that the yield on the long bond would be 8 per cent on both dates. By last Friday, the economists' forecast - made just two months ago - lay in ruins. The 30-year bond yield had already fallen to 8½ per cent.

There were several reasons for this almost unprecedented disaster in American forecasting (one in which I did not participate, having been a bull on bonds since the second quarter of 1984).

The first and most egregious error of the economists was their continuing blind belief in the workability of the "monetarist" model. They looked at the growth of M1 - 11 per cent over the last 12 months - and convinced themselves that this must produce a strong "surge of growth" in American economic activity.

They were underwhelmed by the fact that, since 1982, the velocity of money, the key-stone of monetarist forecasting, had behaved most erratically, rendering inoperable and irrelevant the monetarist model which they had all learned at college - seemingly all they had learned.

In 1985, after a huge monetary input by the Fed beginning in October, 1984, the economy turned in its lowest growth performance - 2.2 per cent - since the recession of 1982. Economic data for January indicates continuing economic weakness.

Retail sales, industrial production, durable goods orders and a record trade deficit in January combine to suggest that the economy in the first quarter of 1986 will be lucky to equal the 1.2 per cent rate of increase in the fourth quarter of 1985 - a figure which provided a further humiliating defeat for the "consensus".

Another reason for the economists' error was the failure to recognize the force of disinflation in America today. Commodity futures prices are at their lowest since early in 1978 and are 40 per cent lower than at that time in real terms.

Average hourly earnings, which rose by 7 per cent a year between 1976 and 1984, rose by only 2.3 per cent in the 12 months ended December, 1985. In real 1977 terms, average hourly earnings are about 6 per cent lower than in 1976. The Federal Reserve has cut the rate of money growth, M1, by 40 per cent since September.

Another reason for the appalling mistakes in the "consensus" was the failure to believe a tiny group of forecasters who correctly predicted a massive drop in the spot price of crude oil.

So severe has been the devastation that it is possible the American price level will fall in 1986. This, with a financial crisis in the oil states to match the crisis in the farming states.

Since February, 1985, when the devaluation of the dollar began, commodity futures prices, measured in dollars, have fallen by 15 per cent, not what would be expected from a 30 per cent devaluation of the dollar.

Gradually, the truth of the situation - that disinflation or even deflation remains dominant - has been absorbed by the American financial markets. Since the third week of January, March T-bonds have fallen from 82 to 94, an increase of 15 per cent, which has been more or less matched in the cash bond market, where the yield on the 30-year bond is 8½ per cent.

Now that the financial markets have perceived the truth of America's situation, it is likely that the yield on the long bond will continue to drop over time, reaching about 7 per cent in early 1987.

BASE  
LENDING  
RATES

ABN	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. P. & Co.	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate

Collapse of N Sea oil price  
ensures neutral Budget

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The latest fall in oil prices, with North Sea crude dipping well below \$14 a barrel at the end of last week, has guaranteed that the forthcoming Budget will be broadly based and neutral.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has rejected the argument that the oil price collapse means he should raise overall taxation to keep within his financial targets.

Treasury economists calculate that more buoyant non-oil revenues will partly offset the £5 billion to £6 billion shortfall in oil revenues in 1986-87. But they say the £3.5 billion originally estimated for tax cuts has already gone.

With the pound once more under pressure, the Chancellor has to present a Budget acceptable to the financial markets. This means adhering to his existing target of £7.5 billion for public sector borrowing in the next financial year.

Mr Lawson could still announce income tax cuts in a neutral Budget by putting up

indirect taxes, notably excise duties on petrol and cigarettes. But with real incomes and consumer spending set to grow strongly, and with the prospect of a sizeable cut in the basic rate of income tax having disappeared with the oil price fall, he is likely to leave well alone.

The City has pushed hard for the abolition of stamp duty on share purchases. In advance of the Stock Exchange big bang move to negotiated commissions in October. Instead of abolition, the Chancellor is more likely to opt for a halving of the rate from 1 to 0.5 per cent which, with higher turnover, could cost the Exchequer less than £100 million.

A pulling together of the various government job measures, to make up an unemployment package to be announced on Budget day, can be expected. This may include an extension of the present Job Start scheme, operating in nine pilot areas since the



Nigel Lawson: rejects raising taxes overall

beginning of the year.

Job Start provides counselling and job offers on state schemes for the long-term unemployed as well as £20 a week for those who take on jobs for less than £80 a week.

One difficulty with a big extension of the scheme favoured by Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Employment, is that it is too early to assess its success.

The Government will also announce a big publicity package designed to increase public awareness of various job measures. One reason for the rise in adult unemployment in the past three months has been the take-up of vacancies on the expanded Community Programme has been slow.

The Chancellor is expected to argue in his Budget speech that the benefits of lower oil prices on growth and inflation, and the improved world economic outlook, more than outweigh the short-term loss of tax cuts. In addition, he is likely to hold out the prospect of cheaper money when oil and the foreign exchanges settle.

Independent forecasters, including the Institute for Fiscal Studies and several City economists, have calculated that although the oil price drop has hit this year's tax cut hopes, the prospects for next year are good. From a political point of view, tax cuts in March 1987 will appeal to the majority of the Cabinet.

Builders  
seek curb  
on tax  
dodgersBy Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

Proposals to combat the growth of Britain's black economy, said today to be responsible for a big increase in shoddy building and to threaten the existence of bona fide builders, have been put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Building Employers' Confederation.

In a report sent to Mr Nigel Lawson and Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, the confederation urges the Government to introduce a low threshold of £10,000 for value added tax registration in the building industry.

Meanwhile, say the builders, a more vigorous and effective enforcement of the existing VAT registration level of £19,500 should be made to recoup massive losses through non-payment by "cowboy" builders.

The confederation says that the dodging of VAT has seriously undermined the ability of honest builders to offer job and training opportunities.

"Encouragement of the black economy will eventually result in the major part of the domestic market being served by semi-skilled or self-trained amateurs - an appalling prospect for the public and for the maintenance of proper standards in the industry."

The report highlights an Inland Revenue estimate that the overall size of the black economy is 7.5 per cent of gross domestic product, representing about £25 billion of undeclared income or £4 billion in lost revenue. This, say the builders, would amount to 3p off the basic rate of income tax.

But Mr Jack Newby, director-general of the confederation, said that the overall figures masked a much greater problem.

"We are concerned that the Government has not so far taken a far more critical stance on this position. It sometimes seems to be regarded as an acceptable way of easing some of the worst effects of unemployment when, in fact, it is destroying jobs and training opportunities."

Recent estimates from producers of building materials are that black economy "cowboys" buy about £1.25 billion of VAT-paid materials while the labour element of the subsequent work amounts to £2.25 billion.

'Little bang' heralds first  
phase of City revolution

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The stock market opens this morning with the first stage of the City revolution now in progress. The so-called "little bang" began over the weekend when non-member institutions became free to go above the 29.9 per cent limit so far imposed on the ownership of Stock Exchange members.

Union Bank of Switzerland, which is raising its stake in the brokerage firm of Phillips & Drew, and Dow Scandia, which is taking full control of another broker, Savoury Milne, are so far the only two outside institutions to take advantage of the new rules.

Other non-member institutions which are applying for membership without owning an existing member firm may now be given permission to trade on the Exchange. The exchange's membership council is considering a handful of applications next week and several more applications the week after that.

Nomura Ltd, which will become a broker, and Merrill Lynch, which is launching a broking and jobbing operation, will be considered by the committee tomorrow. Despite the easing of membership rules, however, the

system of dual capacity in the market will remain until the big bang in October.

This first stage was designed to reduce the disruption in the market which might have been caused by too many changes at once. It also allows new firms to practise at trading in the exchange and enables parent companies to inject more capital into them.

Phillips & Drew has also announced that it has taken 100 per cent control of Moulds & Co, the gill-edged jobber, to form Phillips & Drew Moulds with a capitalization of £25 million.

Small firms 'may have kept  
jobless down by a quarter'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Britain's unemployment figures might have been a quarter higher but for the creation of jobs by small firms, according to the latest quarterly survey by the Small Business Research Trust.

Calculations suggest that small businesses have provided between 800,000 and 1.1 million jobs since 1980, including self-employment.

In the last year, 12 per cent of businesses surveyed had expanded their workforces and 5 per cent expected increases in this quarter. The survey strikes a balance between businesses which are

positive on new job creation and those which are not.

The biggest increases last year were in financial services, where a quarter of the businesses added to their workforces, and manufacturing where 21 per cent did. Another 12 per cent in financial services were expecting in the first quarter to add staff.

The black spot was the transportation sector where 14 per cent expected to shed staff in the current quarter.

The most successful job creators appear to be businesses employing between 15 and 49 people. Some 23 per cent

had taken on new staff, with a further 11 per cent expecting increases this quarter.

Optimism about employment mirrors that on increased sales, although at 26.2 per cent, fewer expected sales improvements in the current quarter compared with the last survey.

There is another cautionary note in the survey which reports that small businesses continue to be worried about high interest rates - a quarter complained about them - with the second greatest cause for concern being the total tax burden.

Brock turns down  
World Bank job

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr William Brock, the US Labour Secretary, has decided not to accept the job as head of the World Bank when the term of Mr A W "Tom" Clausen expires in June.

His decision, taken largely for personal reasons, puts renewed pressure on the Reagan Administration to find a candidate acceptable to Europe and Japan to assume the bank presidency.

Mr Brock is the third high-level official to reject the US Administration's overtures. Earlier, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, and Mr John Whitehead, Under-Secretary of State, expressed lack of interest in the job.

Mr Brock's decision appears to have revived the candidacy of Mr William Middendorf, US ambassador to the EEC, who has continued a relentless campaign for the job. In addition, Mr William Simon, a former US Treasury Secretary, is also under consideration.

Mr Middendorf, who is supported by Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, earlier mounted a vigorous campaign for the job but his candidacy drew opposition from Europe and Japan.

Now, he is being supported by a group of US Senators.

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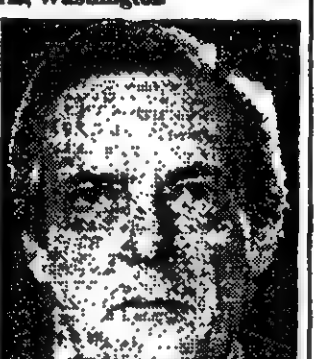
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William Brock: third top US official to refuse post

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Rodime comes to  
London

By Clare Doble

Trading in the shares of Rodime, a computer component manufacturer, starts today on the London Stock Exchange. The shares are expected to open at £8.45.

Rodime, which has factories in Glenrothes, Fife, and Boca Raton, Florida, is coming to the stock market via an introduction.

The London quotation will be in addition to an existing listing in America, where its shares have been traded over the counter for nearly four years. On Friday the share price was \$12.25 (£8.45).

The company makes Winchester disc drives for small business, personal and portable computers. It is developing disc drives for minicomputers and mainframes.

Sales have quadrupled in the last two years from £19.0 million to £75.9 million in the year to September 30 1985. But like other companies in the industry, Rodime has suffered from competition on price and the rising costs of developing new products. Profits have nevertheless risen from £5.1 million two years ago to £14.8 million last year. There is no forecast for this year.

The company has cash of £24.0 million, raised in share issues in America in 1983 and 1984. The money is earmarked for further product development.

Reporting of  
fraud to police  
'unnecessary'

Requiring auditors to report any fraud or financial irregularity they discover in their client companies to the police or other third party would constitute unnecessary interference by the state in business affairs, according to a survey of senior businessmen.

Two out of three directors and top executives surveyed by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants thought that auditors should be required to report fraud only to their client companies who would then undertake any necessary action on their own account.

Opposition to the idea of auditors reporting irregularities to the police was partially reduced on the suggestion that this should be done after the client had been informed, but even this was acceptable to only 32 per cent.

Many businessmen thought that imposing a duty to report to a third party such as the police would destroy trust between auditor and client.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A painful pregnancy  
for the Baker plan

Whatever happened to the Baker plan? The US Treasury Secretary's colleagues-in-arms, the finance ministers of the other large industrial countries, have been asking him since the turn of the year.

Latin American governments, meeting in Uruguay over the weekend, are again threatening the kind of alternatives the Baker initiative was designed to pre-empt. Mexico, nearest and dearest to the heart of America, is providing a painful test of American strategy. A deadline is approaching fast: the April meetings of the committees of finance ministers from "North" and "South" who run the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Baker plan called for cooperative action by the international financial institutions and the commercial banks to provide "new money" for a shortlist of 15 debtor nations which were unlikely to be able to go unaided to market. The code words of debt-speak changed. There was less talk of "adjustment" (which means cutting imports) in developing countries, more of "growth" (which means expanding production and exports). The world was to be hitched out of debt by its braces, not strapped into solvency by belt-tightening. The IMF, purveyors to the world economy of nice tough belts, was in eclipse; the World Bank, suppliers of hard-wearing braces, was to lead the new approach.

Banking self-interest, naturally, was at the heart of the change. The first element was a fear among bankers that the prevailing conditions of slow growth and high interest rates locked them into the permanent provision of large loans to Third-World governments. Virtually all amortization payments due from Latin America last year were rescheduled.

The second element was an unease among bankers that belt-tightening was actually increasing the risk of debt repudiation. John Williamson's "calculus of repudiation" in the just-published *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* demonstrates that governments are most tempted not when their reserves have run out but, on the contrary, after a period of deflation has built reserves up to the point at which they will pay for a few months' essential imports, so that governments can live without a drip-feed of trade credits. By last year, the world's seven biggest debtors had built up reserves with the aid of a \$40 billion trade surplus.

Skilfully presented, the Baker plan purported to offer "new money" in roughly equal proportions from both commercial banks and the international financial institutions. It also appeared to offer debtor governments "softer", longer-term help. Only as the plan left the American drawing board did its true character, and consequent difficulties, become apparent.

More of the genuine "new money" would in fact come from official

sources, notably the World Bank; and the first significant feature of the Baker plan is that the Americans plainly accepted this. But, secondly, it introduced a new tension into World Bank finance. This was traditionally if not exclusively for specific projects in developing countries; but is under the Baker plan to be broadened into loans made conditional on changes in management of debt-ridden economies as a whole.

What's more, the World Bank would carry the clout of the commercial banks, whose loans would follow World Bank agreements: with this clout would come the obligation on the World Bank not to pull its punches.

To show this new approach could work to the satisfaction of all three parties - commercial banks, international institutions and governments - something recognizable as a "Baker loan" had to be in place or in prospect before the April meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. In the meantime, however, the earth moved, and with it the fortunes of the Baker

plan. The falling oil price hurt Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria; helped Brazil; and left Argentina's prospects little changed. Most important of all, it thrust Mexico's tentative rescheduling plans into chaos.

The most critical case for treatment is therefore a country suffering not merely from excessive borrowings yielding poor returns, but also from the need to adjust to a sudden fall in the price of an important export commodity. According to the Mexican finance minister, the fall in oil prices will lose Mexico \$6 billion of expected export earnings in 1986.

There are hopeful signs. Falling oil prices, on balance, will stimulate world growth. The clearest winner - Brazil - is succeeding in renegotiating its commercial bank debt at quite markedly easier interest rates, while taking advantage of cheaper energy to reinforce its attack on inflation. Even in Mexico, falling oil prices do not excuse all economic failure.

Whatever deal is patched together for Mexico will be a compromise between a new-style "Baker loan" or an old-style first-aid job. It will thereby illustrate one of the fundamental difficulties in the plan. This sets targets for an increase in lending, while at the same time arguing that loans should not be granted except on condition that governments introduce "structural" reforms.

Juggling with these conflicting objectives will not be easy; and it is being made more difficult by the Americans' seeming inability to agree on a candidate for the presidency of the World Bank of sufficient calibre. Even at its conception, the plan depended heavily on presentation; a live birth now depends on the appointment of a midwife of international reputation.

Sarah Hogg

Economics Editor

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(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
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Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
<b>BUILDING AND ROADS</b>				
1. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
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54. B&R	100	0	10	10%
55. B&R	100	0	10	10%
56. B&R	100	0	10	10%
57. B&R	100	0	10	10%
58. B&R	100	0	10	10%
59. B&R	100	0	10	10%
60. B&R	100	0	10	10%
61. B&R	100	0	10	10%
62. B&R	100	0	10	10%
63. B&R	100	0	10	10%
64. B&R	100	0	10	10%
65. B&R	100	0	10	10%
66. B&R	100	0	10	10%
67. B&R	100	0	10	10%
68. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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78. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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80. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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91. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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93. B&R	100	0	10	10%
94. B&R	100	0	10	10%
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96. B&R	100	0	10	10%
97. B&R	100	0	10	10%
98. B&R	100	0	10	10%
99. B&R	100	0	10	10%
100. B&R	100	0	10	10%

## BUILDINGS AND ROADS

19.31	Aspen	244	+8	18.5	6.3	15.2
49.41	Amec	225		18.5	6.3	15.2
2.500	Amgen	225		18.5	6.3	15.2
50.55	American	148		18.5	6.3	15.2
1.00	Amgen	148		18.5	6.3	15.2
13	Burgundy	148	+14	18.5	6.3	15.2
13	Burgundy	148	+14	18.5	6.3	15.2
1.24	Burgundy	148		18.5	6.3	15.2
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## GILT-EDGED

## Dr Kaufman's health warning on US bonds

New York, Friday, February 28, 8.59 am. Semi-shadow in the dealing room and the desks glow green from the consoles. The bond market opens in one minute; the atmosphere is tense. Sixty traders sit waiting for the off, watching the clock-like minutes about to go in.

On Thursday, the market moved as if shoved by a giant hand, and the commuter trains back to Connecticut were full of carousing bond dealers. Lust for bonds, whispers a trader; this market is devouring its young. In London, the long bond future is already one point ahead.

One minute past nine — pandemonium. The shorts are ahead by 1/4 point. The futures contract is up by 229 basis points.

"The two are hit, the two are hit," screams a trader. The selling starts. Back comes the market. The long bond, faithful bellwether of the flock, swings through about 200 points in an hour as \$80 billion starts to hit the market with ferocity and ill-directed intensity.

Lunch here is taken on a tray in front of the screen. Ketchup, not Scotch, prevails. None complain, as they join in what, by common consent, seems like the greatest bond bull market of all time.

But over at New York Plaza, high above the East River in a bright, sun-filled study, a slight, almost frail, figure is preparing to light a fire beneath the entire market. Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers is starting to raise some fairly fundamental questions about the yield base in the market.

"The markets," says Dr Kaufman firmly, "are going to have to demonstrate at some point in time that they are viable or can be stable in the face of economic expansion. They have not yet been tested on that."

Long yields of about 8.3 per cent look reasonable, according to Dr Kaufman. These have been achieved against a background of very favourable factors. Since mid-1984, he estimates that the US has enjoyed a subnormal path of economic growth. Inflationary fears have been dampened by low oil prices. The Federal

Reserve has been exceedingly accommodative.

And market are bullish, Dr Kaufman goes on. In this setting, even the bearish elements are transmitted.

But inflation, he warns, is bottoming out. Some time in the second half of this year, a weaker dollar should start impacting on the US price structure. Oil price trends, too, are very hard to track. Will another sharp crack in prices, for example, induce fears of a countervailing bounce back?

Oil price uncertainty is paralleled by dollar fears. So far, notes Dr Kaufman, the decline in the dollar has been orderly. Hence, there has been no shift in the pattern of international investment away from the US.

"I don't believe the Japanese are going to stop buying American securities. The uncertainty is whether other foreign buyers of US securities will pull away in favour of investment in other economies," he suggests.

Germany and Japan should benefit far more than the US from falling oil prices. The value of their currency is up, and oil is priced in dollars. Their inflation rates shortly could be close to zero, just as US inflation begins to rise. Not by much, Dr Kaufman says, but by enough to tilt the balance of emphasis.

Market sentiment is also threatened by a twin attack, on both the supply and demand sides of the US credit picture.

"I think that American monetary policy will remain expansionary for virtually all of this year," says Dr Kaufman. "The Fed will not change policy. It has been very expansionary, and very accommodative. The infusion of bank reserves has been very, very large."

America is heading for a good year. Perhaps 1987 could be even better. But later in the year, this means that some of the money numbers will be less than attractive to the market. Credit demand by US corporates ought to be exuberant.

"In the last 1 1/2 years, with subnormal economic growth, business community demand for credit has been moderate. The rise in inventories has decelerated. Last year, in the fourth quarter, it was a minus

figure. But this on-going pressing down of US business inventories cannot be pressed down much further with improvement in the pace of economic expansion."

Dr Kaufman's analysis may or may not be correct; time will tell. But there exists a visible correlation between his well-laid hints that the US markets may be approaching a turning point and the current composition of US yields. A Kaufman prediction would stand a reasonable chance of self-fulfilment because of the volatility now built into the US yield curve.

A fortnight ago, the spread between two-year notes and 30-year bonds was broadly 90 points. Mid-week last week, it was nearer 70 points. Following the market's huge surge, it was closer to 55 points. The flattening of the US yield curve means that extension premiums have well-nigh disappeared.

But if the market is now to make further progress, and the push continues to come from the long, then the yield curve will start to invert fairly shortly. This would be a silly curve, since, pro forma, it would define US monetary policy as tight, even though the Fed would resist the definition, and the market does not expect it.

Easier short-term rates? Dollar weakness seems to rule this out, and central banking activity round the world last week offered no change on the official hard-line attitude. The Bundesbank was particularly intransigent.

Yield curves, however, are moving. Heretofore things, especially in the highly charged New York atmosphere. And if the market has nowhere to go on the bull track, then it must be an even money bet that the bears will move in. The long end has plenty of scope for an upward flip, after the toboggan ride of the last few weeks. Yields now look overbought.

The message for the gilt market from Dr Kaufman's comments is clear. Do not be surprised, chagrined or even just disappointed, if markets come back. *Quid enim salvis infamia nummis?* — take the money and run?

Christopher Dunn  
Orion/Royal Bank

## UK-Saudi building venture in liquidation

By Teresa Poole

Laing Wimpey Alireza — the Saudi Arabian joint venture company owned by the British construction companies, John Laing and George Wimpey, and a Saudi partner — has been put into liquidation after non-payment of more than £16 million for work on major projects.

The move follows the sudden withdrawal by Laing and Wimpey of all expatriate staff from Saudi Arabia in November and the subsequent failure of their efforts to resolve the company's financial position. Before the decision to pull out the two British companies had funded the company's shortfall without any contribution from their local partner, the Alireza family, a Saudi lawyer, Dr Abdullah al-Munifi, has been appointed liquidator, and Laing and Wimpey are to submit a claim for these sums by the March 10 deadline.

It is understood that, at the time of the withdrawal, all construction work had been completed, but substantial sums were owed to LWA. They included 25 million riyals (£4.6 million) from the Ministry of Health in relation to Jubail Hospital; 33 million riyals (£6.1 million) from Arabian Hotels and Catering for the Holiday Inn, Jeddah; 30 million riyals (£5.5 million) from the Ministry of Health for the hospitals at Al Midhhab and Al Bukayriyah; and certified sums outstanding on other contracts for several years.

LWA is equally owned by the three partners.

Mr Angus Shure, of Fielding Newson-Smith, the stockbroker, estimated write-offs at up to £10 million by each company to cover unpaid sums and the cost of withdrawing from Saudi Arabia.

Under Saudi law the liquidator must provide a statement of affairs within three months. Dr al-Munifi has asked for the assistance of former LWA staff and has assured their safe entry and exit from the Kingdom.

The Health Ministry projects director, Mr Mohammed al-Guwahies, said last month that Saudi Arabia would call a performance bond of more than 20 million riyals (£3.7 million) for failing to properly complete the three hospital contracts.

## BT pays a high price for Isle of Man contract

The Isle of Man Parliament is to keep British Telecom as its public telecommunications provider.

If BT had lost the competition to Cable & Wireless for these 25,000 telephone subscribers, the direct financial consequence would have been minuscule. In 1984/85, the island bought BT just £5.4 million in revenue and £1.4 million in profits, just under 0.1 per cent of its total turnover.

So why all the fuss? And why did BT agree to pay £7.5 million to the Manx Government and £250,000 each year for the next 20 to have its licence renewed?

The new privatized BT is keen to prove itself commercially and wants to form and acquire new businesses, especially overseas. To have lost the Isle of Man would not only have been a blow to its pride but may have damaged its chances to get contracts elsewhere, like Sri Lanka, where again it is tendering against Cable & Wireless.

But the price to pay for the island could be a lot more than the £7.5 million plus £250,000 yearly for the next 20 years. BT is to form a new company, Manx Telecom, and the Manx Government may take a stake in it.

The profit and loss account of Manx Telecom will make interesting reading, especially for BT watchdog Ofel, because it will be BT's first breakout business. Indeed, it could help Ofel to review and perhaps amend BT's whole pricing structure in Britain.

Manx subscribers may also be pleasantly surprised as BT has agreed to cut its charges to them by about 15 per cent when the new licence becomes effective in January, 1987.

The Isle of Man, being a fairly wealthy place, is not exactly representative of Britain but we must place it alongside Kingston-upon-Hull, which is the other little bit of Britain where telephone charges could be substantially cut.

Hull Corporation is the only independent local telephone service provider in the country. Its long-distance calls go via BT and currently BT takes all the revenue from those calls, but still, Hull made a profit of £4.1 million on local revenues of £17.4 million from its 150,000 subscribers last year.

If negotiations to share the long-distance revenue more equally with BT are successful, Hull could also be cutting charges next year. Its local service (rental of telephone and local calls) is already cheaper than BT's.

Even if Ofel did not exist, these price cuts would command some public attention. Public pressure has already forced BT to cut telephone charges in some of the Scottish Islands groups, such as Orkney and the Hebrides. Why should BT give in to such pressure when it has a monopoly? The simple answer is, it no longer has a monopoly and thus the big guns are trained on a rather ponderous target.

Mercury Communications, now wholly owned by Cable &

Wireless, has a licence to compete with BT and is already providing private telephone circuits, mainly to large companies for their internal networks. By the early summer, it will have some of its own all-digital telephone exchanges and could be offering a lower priced service to one third of Britain's telephone users next year. But Mercury will be almost wholly a long-distance telecom supplier with only limited local networks — it would be too expensive to re-lay all its cables even though it is doing so in areas like the City of London.

So Mercury will be looking for cost-effective ways to access other local networks. The biggest of these will be BT itself. Last October, Ofel granted Mercury the right of access to BT's network at rates equivalent to a 60 per cent discount on BT's public tariffs. In time, this will allow Mercury to win new subscribers from BT because anyone with a telephone will be able to use Mercury by dialling a code. Indeed, Mercury will soon start selling its own telephones which will dial the extra digits automatically.

We expect that by 1988, Mercury will be serving one million of BT's, by then 22.5 million subscribers from Exeter to Aberdeen. By 1990, most business and many domestic customers will be using Mercury for at least some long-distance calls because they will be cheaper than BT by 10 to 30 per cent.

Mercury's revenues could near £1 billion by 1990 with a

profit contribution to Cable & Wireless in the £100 million to £200 million range.

The combination of direct loss of revenue and lower prices due to competition could deprive BT of something like £1.5 billion of revenue by the end of this decade.

Of course, the market for telecommunications will continue to grow from just over £4 billion in 1985 to perhaps £6.5 billion by 1990, but BT will find it difficult to show any growth at all in telephone call revenue during the period of Mercury's fastest growth, probably 1988 or 1989. This will be a completely new situation for BT, whereas privatizing the company gave it the short-term opportunity to exploit a monopoly, the longer-term process of competition will make life much more difficult. BT could easily be reporting profit reductions before the decade is out.

The speed with which all this could come about depends on market dynamics and the growth of public awareness. Most BT subscribers have no idea what Mercury offers. But once the service begins to catch on, things could happen quickly. A really neat way to get the ball rolling would have been to win the Isle of Man franchise.

No doubt BT will go to extraordinary lengths to defend Hull, too.

Bill Dixon

The author is telecommunications analyst at the broker Scott, Goff, Layton

## BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY — Interims: Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation, Michael Peters Group, Ramar Textiles, Finais: T F and J H Besime Holdings, British Vita, Mitrovic.

TOMORROW — Interims: Telexnet, Finais: Bladen Industries, BSR International, Finais: The Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, Johnstone's Paints, National Westminster Bank, The Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust, Provident Financial Group, Stat-Plus Group.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: Altimor, Galliford, Midland Bank, William Sinclair Holdings, Finais: Anglo American Gold Investment, Co (expected March 6), Aut and Wiborg (a merged), Commercial Union Assurance Co, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance, Heywood Williams Group, Tavener Rutledge.

THURSDAY — Interims: Barclays Bank (2nd), Johnson Matthey, Kleinwort Benson Eurobond Fund, Mitchell Cotts, Shires Investment, Finais: Biomechanics, Cadbury Schweppes, Corah, Bife Indman, Inghem, Stock-

holders Far East Investments, TI Group, James Wilkes.

FRIDAY — Interims: Consolidated Plantations Berhad, Finais: Alliance Trust, Anglo-

## Kleinwort Benson

With effect from 1st March 1986 the Kleinwort, Benson Limited mortgage rate will be 13.5% per annum, and the personal loan base rate will be 12.5% per annum.

## Lloyds Bank 1985 Results

The main features of 1985 were:

- Higher profit, earnings per share and dividend; and a 1 for 2 scrip issue.
- A significant strengthening of our capital base.
- Strong performance in UK; Latin American exposure reduced in sterling terms.
- Continuing prudent approach to provisions for bad and doubtful debts, but write-offs down.
- The creation of Lloyds Merchant Bank, the sale of our investment in the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the merger of the clearing bank and Lloyds Bank International (1 January 1986).

"1985 was a year in which we significantly strengthened our capital base and reduced our relative exposure to international debt problems. The excellent results allow us to increase the dividend and we propose a further 1 for 2 scrip issue. We shall continue to push forward in 1986."

Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman of Lloyds Bank Plc

LLOYDS BANK PLC  
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1985

	1985	1984	Increase
Profit Before Tax	£561m	£468m	20%
Profit After Tax	£331m	£237m	40%
Post-Tax Return on Average Total Assets	0.77%	0.55%	
Post-Tax Return on Average Equity	15.1%	12.1%	
Earnings Per Share	93p	65p	43%
Dividends Per Share	21.0p	17.7p	19%
Dividend Cover	4.4 times	3.7 times	

## Dividend

The Directors of Lloyds Bank Plc have declared a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 1985 of 13.5p per share (1984: 11.4p adjusted for the one for two capitalisation issue in 1985), making a total for the year of 21.0p per share (1984: 17.7p). With the related tax credit this is equivalent to 30.0p per share (1984: 25.2p). The final dividend is payable on 4 April 1986 to shareholders registered on 12 March 1986.

## Proposed one for two scrip issue

The Directors will recommend to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting the issue of one new fully paid ordinary £1 share for every two shares held. Subject to shareholders' approval, the new shares will be issued to holders on the register on 30 May 1986.

## Further information

Further details of Lloyds Bank's 1985 results may be obtained from: Corporate Communications Division, Princess House, 152/156 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3UJ. Telephone: 01-929 2777.



**Lloyds Bank**

A THOROUGHbred AMONGST BANKS.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS







# The big shift towards the East

The Queen's visit to Australia, which will take her to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide over the next 10 days, reminds us once again of the deep historical and personal links between our two countries. And yet, as Australians prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of British settlement in 1988, their day-to-day concerns are overwhelmingly with the Asia-Pacific region of which geographically they are a part.

Two facts illustrate this orientation. First, the alliance with the United States, which has guaranteed the country's security since the Second World War, and, second, trade with Japan, which for two decades has been the largest export market.

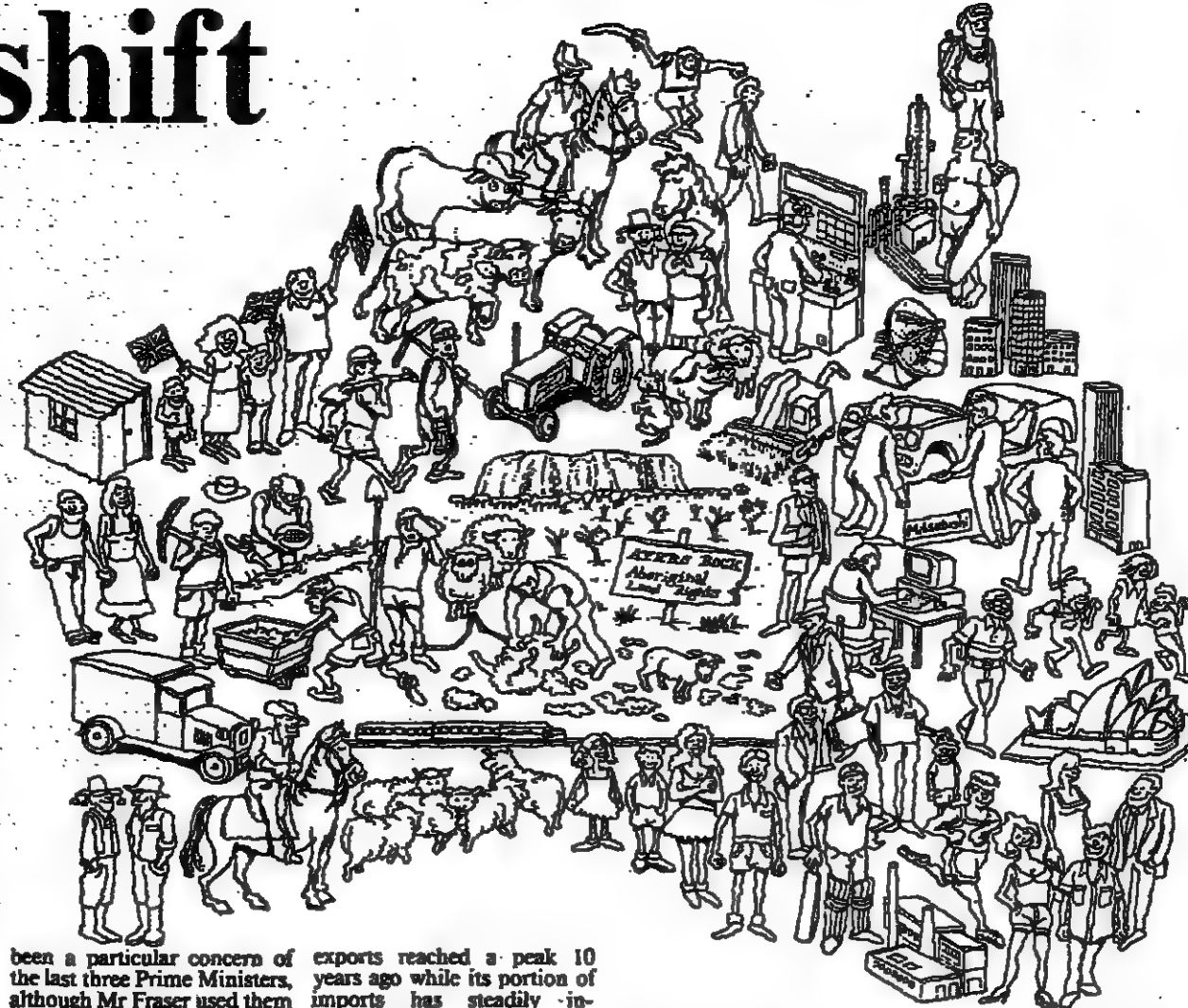
In recent years Australia has played a more independent role in the region. Gough Whitlam, who came to power with Labor in 1972, withdrew Australian troops from South Vietnam, recognized China, opened relations with North Vietnam and North Korea, and chose Papua New Guinea and Indonesia for his first overseas trip as Prime Minister. Although his Liberal (conservative) successor, Malcolm Fraser, had different priorities, he did not substantially reverse this trend. The Labor government, which has held office since 1983 under Bob Hawke, has sought to strengthen ties with South-East Asia in a more pragmatic way than Mr Whitlam, with the emphasis on economic cooperation.

Bill Hayden, the foreign minister, has tried, so far without success, to act as honest broker between Vietnam and the Asian countries over Cambodia. However, he does seem to have succeeded in burying the hatchet with Indonesia over East Timor. The visit of Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the foreign minister, in December, was remarkable for the absence of heat on this issue and there is now talk of President Suharto coming to Canberra.

In foreign policy matters Mr Hawke has concentrated on the ANZUS crisis and trade with China. The quarrel between New Zealand and the United States over the visits of American nuclear powered or armed vessels has cemented the relationship between Canberra and Washington. Australia seems to have decided that their country, with its proximity to the great Asian land mass, cannot afford a gesture such as New Zealand's, and support for the alliance is at an all-time high.

The Americans have been irritated by Mr Hawke's dithering over whether or not to cooperate in MX missile tests in the South Pacific (he eventually decided against) and by Mr Hayden's push in the United Nations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. However, these differences appear to have been worn comfortably in the light of Canberra's firm commitment to the alliance.

Relations with China have



been a particular concern of the last three Prime Ministers, although Mr Fraser used them as an anti-Soviet card. The value of Australian exports, mainly wheat, wool and iron ore, rose by over 70 per cent in fiscal 1984/85 to nearly \$A1,056 million (about £528 million) and negotiations are underway for China to invest in an iron ore mine, a blast furnace and an aluminium

## Australia has a trade surplus with Japan

smelter in Australia. However, two-way trade with Taiwan is still worth more than that with China.

Australia is one of the few countries to have a trade surplus with Japan (\$A1,247 million in 1984/85). However, the Japanese share of total

exports reached a peak 10 years ago while its portion of imports has steadily increased, overtaking that of the United States for the first time in 1983/84.

As a former administrative power, Australia maintains close relations with Papua New Guinea, to which it supplies about \$A200 million in aid a year. \$A140 million towards the budget and the rest as project and defence grants. The vulnerability of the Papua New Guinean economy and the tension with Indonesia over Melanesian guerrillas in Irian Jaya who seek refuge in PNG are causes of concern to Canberra; Australia's nearest neighbour remains a potential flashpoint.

In the South-West Pacific, Canberra has taken the initiative in getting the South Pacific Forum, which groups Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands, to endorse a

South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty. The area is of great strategic interest to Australia and Mr Hayden is due to tour it later this year. The future of New Caledonia, French nuclear testing, the fisheries agreement between Kiribati and the Soviet Union, and the danger of Libyan involvement will be high on his agenda.

Although the Hawke government is making its mark in the Asia-Pacific region it could be argued that it is following a series of *ad hoc* initiatives rather than a coherent external strategy.

Perhaps that will emerge only after a review commissioned by Kim Beazley, the defence minister, is published later this year. Paul Dibb of the Australian National Uni-

versity in Canberra has been asked to look at the structure of the armed forces in the light of peculiarly Australian, as opposed to allied, requirements.

While leaving the alliance with the United States intact, Australia will in future place more emphasis on defending its own vast territory. This is likely to be done by a combination of maritime strike capability and lightly armed ground forces which can be deployed rapidly. Such a concept is a retreat from wider responsibilities within the Western alliance but it does correspond more closely to the pronounced regional bent of Australian foreign policy.

Simon Scott Plummer

## An uphill fight for Honest John

John Winston Howard took over as leader of the Liberal Party in extraordinary circumstances on September 5, 1985. His predecessor, Andrew Peacock, had set out to remove him as his deputy after Mr Howard had refused to declare he would not seek election to the leadership before the next federal poll.

The move backfired disastrously for Mr Peacock. Mr Howard defeated the challenger for the deputy's post by 38 votes to 31. Mr Peacock then resigned and Mr Howard was elected leader of the party by 57 votes to six with seven abstentions.

His accession has brought a new look to the leadership of the Opposition, which has traditionally been dominated by the Victorian Establishment. Mr Howard is from a small business background — his father ran a garage — in New South Wales. Both he and his deputy, Neil Brown, went to state schools and the Liberals' leader and deputy leader in the Senate are both Roman Catholics.

It also marks a swing to the right in the party, which distinguishes it more sharply from a conservative Labor government than under Mr Peacock. Mr Howard supported Labor's deregulation of the financial market but would like to extend this to the labour market. This is anathema to the unions and a government whose political platform is based on their support. He also favours selling off parts of the public sector.

Mr Howard, who is 46, is a small, bespectacled man with a ruddy complexion and thinning grey hair. He has a reputation for honesty, a quality evident in an interview with *The Times* in his office in Parliament House, Canberra, during which he answered questions simply and directly.

He said he had been interested in politics for as long as he could remember and recalled the 1949 election, when Robert Menzies returned to power and when petrol ration-

ing was a big issue. Menzies, Churchill and Mrs Gandhi are people whose strength he admires and he also respects Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan for the way they have captured the public mood.

After graduating in law from Sydney University in 1961 Mr Howard joined a firm of solicitors. In 1974 he was elected to the federal parliament as member for the Sydney suburb of Bennelong, which he still represents. He and his wife, Janette, and their three children, a girl and two boys, live in Wollstonecraft, another Sydney suburb.

Mr Howard was appointed Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs and commerce in March 1975 and, after the Liberal-National Party coalition returned to power later that year, became successively Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Minister of State for Special Trade Negotiations,



John Howard: A new look to Opposition leadership

Minister for Finance, and Treasurer. The last portfolio he held from 1977 to 1983. He became deputy leader of the Liberals in 1982.

In the six months since he assumed the leadership of the Opposition Mr Howard has had an uphill struggle to convince the country that he could beat Bob Hawke in a general election. Whatever the problems of the present government — and they are many — Mr Hawke has retained his popularity as a good bloke who

Continued on page 2

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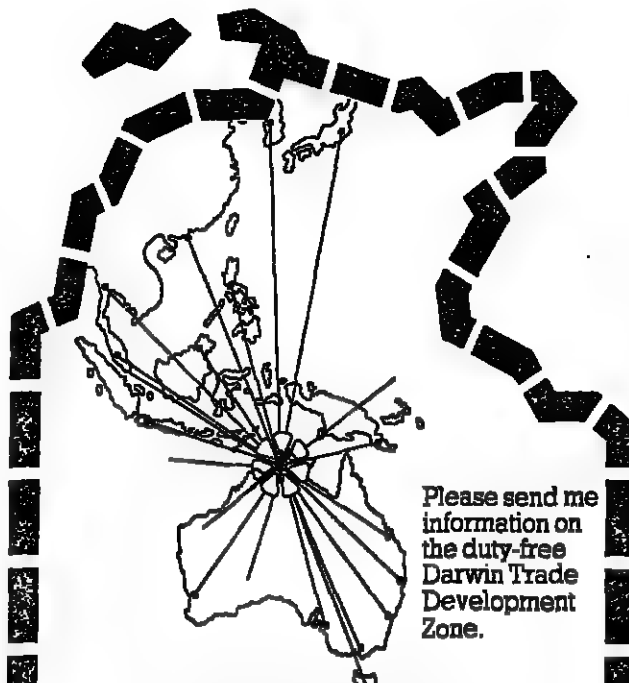
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## AUSTRALIA/2

## FOCUS

# Growth, but no safety margin

The Labor government has succeeded beyond all expectations with its "dash for growth" and "jobs now" economic strategy in the past three years, achieving this in the face of both a commodity price slump and subdued growth among Australia's trade partners.

Growth has been running at more than four per cent a year, faster than in virtually all the industrial economies, and Australia's best performance in a quarter of a century. Unemployment has fallen a couple of points to eight per cent, the country is having its fourth year of industrial stability, corporate profit share is returning to late 1960s levels, and labour costs are now below the late 1960s level. For all that, there is a penalty for governments that ignore the orthodoxies, especially when inflation rates are out of step with those of trading partners.

Australia's 8.2 per cent, including a couple of points for last year's devaluation, compares with about 5.5 per cent for Britain, 3.6 per cent for the United States, 1.9 per cent for Japan and 1.8 per cent for West Germany.

Paul Keating, the Treasurer, argues that the real index of competitiveness is labour costs, where Australia's real unit costs rose half a point less than the key trading partners' over 1984/85. With a 6.1 per cent rise expected over 1985/86, it would be only a point above the average overseas.

However, international scepticism is reinforced when Australia's economic growth is fuelled by big budget deficits and when the growth is dependent on heavy borrowing offshore to fund an exceptionally weak balance of payments (an expected current account deficit for 1985/86 of about \$A12 billion).

The result has been a devaluation of the Australian dollar by currency markets last year of about 20 per cent. To keep the dollar at its present level of around 68-71 US cents, the government is having to run



A bird's eye view of Sydney's business district

short-term interest rates (nominal and real) at levels well above the OECD norm. The bank prime rate, for example, is around 20 per cent.

The success to date has been a function of the "accord" with the trade union movement, based on confining wage gains to the rate of inflation. Part of the accord theory was that the unions were to be brought into the policy-setting framework. The hot pace of economic growth has enabled the Australian Council of Trade Unions to go along with the profit restoration, financial deregulation, and less than full wage indexation.

The ACTU has kept its side of the bargain. Wages drift and industrial disputes have been minimal, and the government and ACTU have acted sharply against renegade unions trying to bust out of the accord restraints.

Hence this recovery has not run into the normal wages-explosion brick wall. The expansion has run instead into the balance of payments constraint. It is now difficult to satisfy both unions and the foreign exchange market.

There are further consequences of the government running an economic policy on a nil safety margin. For instance, the latest sag in oil prices cannot be passed on fully into local petrol prices because the government is dependent on oil taxes to finance major income tax cuts promised in 1986 and 1987.

On the other hand, to keep up oil prices will further worsen Australia's inflation rate relative to those of its trading partners, and the currency and hence the accord

## Business community is apprehensive

will again come under pressure (devaluations require a discounting of wage indexation).

Fiscal policy has also been hampered by the unions' refusal in last year's tax summit to wear Mr Keating's proposed broad-based consumption tax. These developments merely indicate that the basic premise of the accord — maintenance and improvement of real workforce living standards — is suspect in an

economy heavily in hock to overseas lenders and now subject to sharply deteriorating world prices on its major exports.

The accord mark II for the two years from October 1985 has underwritten real wages with the bonus of improved workforce superannuation and a shorter working week.

What worries the market is that, given a choice between averting a rise in unemployment and keeping the Australian dollar high, the Labor government would use monetary and fiscal policy to support employment. This would imply acceptance of a weaker dollar later this year and a sudden end to the bullish mood of foreign investors.

Labor's new "trilogy" policy promises are for no rise in federal tax as a proportion of GDP over the life of the current parliament, a similar no-rise policy for spending and a cut in the deficit-GDP ratio in the same period.

The burst of economic growth in the wake of the devaluation early last year has enabled Mr Keating to meet the "trilogy" targets in 1985/86. If growth now slows, heavy spending cuts are going to be needed.

While the country has enjoyed its binge of growth, the business community has remained apprehensive, and capital investment has run down to surprisingly low levels. A further problem is the slow pace at which industrial restructuring is being achieved through cuts in protection of Australia's least efficient industries.

Generally, the manufacturing sector is uncompetitive on world markets and acts as a drag on both rural and tertiary sector efficiency. The problem is compounded because high-value-added manufactured goods are the major area of growth in world trade patterns.

Tony Thomas

Accountancy Editor  
Business Review Weekly,  
Melbourne.

## Two-airline policy under review

In a country the size of Australia, air travel is the most convenient way of moving between cities. However, the airline system is quite different from that of the United States.

Whereas the US market has been deregulated since 1978, the Australian is strictly controlled by a policy which provides for two carriers, Ansett and Trans Australia Airlines (TAA), to fly trunk routes within the country and a third, Qantas, to be the sole international carrier.

This domestic duopoly, in which the two airlines have similar capacity, charge the same fares and, in the main, fly the same routes at approximately the same time, is under review.

Ansett, a private company owned jointly by Sir Peter Abeles' TNT and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, wants to leave things largely as they are, arguing that there has not yet been time to evaluate fully changes in the policy introduced in 1981 to foster competition.

TAA, which is state-owned, wishes, like Ansett, to retain the two-airline system. But it advocates greater freedom to set fares and to decide on how its fleet should be used. It would also like access to intrastate and to some international routes.

East-West Airlines is out to break their duopoly. Owned by Ric Siove, a West Australian millionaire, it sees the present system as stifling innovation and making air travel unnecessarily expensive, and is calling for gradual deregulation.

In an attempt to force the pace of change, East-West has challenged the two airlines policy in the High Court on the grounds that it contravenes Section 92 of the constitution, which guarantees free trade and commerce between the states.

Though it is Australia's overseas carrier, Qantas, which, like TAA, is government-owned, has made a submission to the review body because it wants restoration of the right to carry on the domestic sectors of its international

services (eg. Sydney-Perth) passengers brought to Australia by foreign airlines.

The government is expected to introduce changes but, because it is the owner of one of the two main domestic carriers, these are unlikely to be drastic. However, things could look very different if the two-airline policy is ruled unconstitutional by the High Court.

Turning to the international scene, Qantas's current worry is the advent of United Airlines in the Pacific. The largest American carrier, United has bought Pan American's assets in the region and began flights to Australia last month. Qantas fears that with its strong domestic base and lower labour costs, United will be able to offer big discounts on its overseas flights.

On the "kangaroo" route between Australia and Britain, Qantas and British Airways estimate they have between 40 and 50 per cent of the market. BA increased its flights to 10 a week last December and Qantas will follow suit next month.

SSP

## Annual General Meeting

## National Australia Bank Limited

# Highlights of the Chairman's Address

Group operating profit after tax in 1984/85 amounted to almost \$302 million, an increase of 30.1%. This result must be placed into perspective with the major changes that have taken place within Australian financial markets. It was inevitable that Australian banks would gain something from the initial round of deregulation. Indeed, it would have been an unhealthy sign if they had not.

The second round of changes within the financial industry involves establishment of the new bank entrants. There always has been strong competition within the banking industry, but the next five years is going to be something of a watershed, as the new entrants make their bids for a viable share. The success of 1984/85 has provided National Australia Bank with an excellent start and it is revamping its strategies to meet these new competitive challenges.

The Bank was first to offer payment systems to the new banks and non-banks seeking agency access. Innovations in deposit and lending products are taking place, some of which are well ahead of those being offered by overseas banks in their domestic markets. A new zone concept will place specialist service and advice closer to people in branches to maintain and enhance customer relationships.

At the same time, the Bank is taking advantage of the increased opportunity foreign bank entry is providing to extend and upgrade its presence overseas. It has also established National Australia Life Limited to enter the Life Insurance market.

## Economic Outlook

The broader economic outlook suggests a difficult operating environment in the near term. High real rates of interest strike at the very heart of economic growth and development. Real rates of interest of well over 10% per annum, stifle investment and our ability to achieve productivity gains. New investment in productive economic ventures cannot be forced and markets must be allowed to operate unfettered. A healthy stable environment, devoid of the uncertainties associated with high real interest rates, is an essential prerequisite.

Of great concern is the resurgence of inflation and the perceived lack of confidence in the Australian dollar.

Undoubtedly a tight monetary stance is a necessary strategy in these circumstances. However, it should not be allowed to bear the full brunt of deflationary policy. It will also be necessary to reduce or postpone government expenditure and restrain wages growth. To maintain pressure on interest rates for too long may well prove highly detrimental to the nation's medium term prospects.

Rising domestic costs and low returns are severely impacting on farm incomes and depressing property values. The agricultural policies of the European Economic Community and the United States of America are distorting markets and resulting in a poor outlook for commodity prices. The Bank strongly encourages the Federal Government to maintain its protest on these issues and for its part the Bank, as a major lender to the rural sector, will continue to sympathetically treat viable farmers in difficulty.

Ultimately the success of National Australia Bank is going to be closely bound to the future prosperity of our own country. As a financial intermediary we have an important role to play but we can only play that role if the economic climate is supportive. Many more hard decisions have yet to be made before we can look forward to this country reaching the very considerable potential it undoubtedly possesses.

Sir Robert Law-Smith,  
Chairman of Directors,  
Melbourne.  
January 23, 1986.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Year ended September)

	1983 (\$m)	1984 (\$m)	1985 (\$m)
Total Group assets	23,283	27,505	35,329
Group operating profit (after tax)	161	228	302
Earnings per share	62c	70c	88c
Dividend per stock unit	23c	25c	27.5c

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## Honest John's uphill fight

Continued from page 1

understands the feelings of the ordinary Australian.

In an opinion poll published in the weekly magazine *The Bulletin* last month, half of those questioned supported Labor, compared to 42 per cent for the Liberal-National coalition. However, when it came to who would make the better Prime Minister, Mr Howard scored only 19 per cent against Mr Hawke's 66 per cent.

As well as taking on Labor, Mr Howard has had to consolidate his position within the Liberal Party after his surprising victory last September.

This he appears to have achieved to a large extent and it will be interesting to see whether he and his party will now be able to take advantage of the government's weak points.

These include one of the most serious crises ever to affect Australian farmers, stagnation in mining (apart from gold), high interest rates, a huge current account deficit, soaring debt, a retreat over tax reform in the face of union opposition, and a failure, for revenue reasons, to pass on fully to consumers the benefits of the drop in world oil prices.

The Liberals will have no lack of targets to attack between now and the next federal election, and in the current session of parliament, which began last month, they are adopting more aggressive tactics towards their opponents than they did before Christmas.

The question is whether "Honest John" Howard can capitalize on Labor's difficulties and emerge as a popular leader.

Evidently he intends to try a more hard-hitting approach. "The Opposition is for black and white," he told *The Times*. "Shades of grey are for the government."

SSP

# AUSTRALIA MEANS BUSINESS

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You can apply for migration through the program's investment category if you have a minimum of \$A500,000 to invest in a business venture and to establish your family in Australia or through the *entrepreneurial* category, which takes particular account of personal skills, techniques, products, technologies or joint ventures.

Further information on the Business Migration Program is available at the nearest Australian overseas mission or any Regional Office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Australia.



# BMP

Australia's Business Migration Program



## King Coal is still mining the big money

Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy, spoke at an international mining conference last August of an emotional resistance in Australia to being typecast as "a quarry and a farm for the rest of the world".

But the fact is that the dominance of minerals and oil, which account for 49 per cent of Australia's exports (compared with agriculture's 39 per cent) is, if anything, only likely to increase.

Recent Sydney Stock Exchange surveys forecast that coal, already Australia's leading export, will account within the next two years for more foreign revenue than the combined total of the number two and three earners, wheat and wool.

Coal and oil together bring in 55 per cent of mineral earnings, compared with nine per cent for aluminium, eight per cent for iron ore and four per cent for bauxite. All precious metals and gems account for only four per cent. The industry is based around bulky, low-value commodities for which transport is a major determinant of costs.

The common belief is that last year's sharp fall in the value of the Australian dollar has enabled mining companies to sustain a slow and patchy recovery from the

1981-82 recession. But the influential annual survey by the Australian Mining Industry Council (Amic), conducted by Coopers and Lybrand and released in December, sounded a cautionary note.

Despite a substantial increase in 1984-85 in sales volume and increased profitability, the survey says, the industry did not receive an adequate return on its investments.

Total revenues increased by 26 per cent to \$A13,859 million (about \$6,929 million) while industry profits rose from \$A462 million in 1983/84 to \$A640 million. Projections for the 1985-86 year say profits could rise to \$A1,000 million.

The Amic survey says, however, that last year's returns were "well below acceptable levels". The effective after-tax return on funds employed was 5.5 per cent, and net profit return on total revenue was 4.6 per cent. These figures compared with pre-tax returns on government bonds of 13.5 per cent.

Sydney Stock Exchange members are predicting a continuation of low demand and over-supply in mineral commodities, with a generally flat outlook for the next few years.

For coal, which in 1984 earned \$A6,210 million or 29

per cent of the value of all mineral production, there are two parts of the picture. The outlook for coking coal is weak, with Japanese steel production likely to be reduced from 150 million tonnes last year to between 96 and 102 million tonnes in 1985/86.

For steaming coal, on the



Under the Prime Minister Bob Hawke, investment in mining is stagnant

other hand, the outlook is promising. According to Meares and Philips of the Sydney Stock Exchange Australia's steaming coal capacity will have increased from 35 million to 40 million tonnes by mid-year, and this will be fully used against a

background of impending international shortages.

Coal is one of the areas where the industry can point to a broad pattern of cost-cutting, increased productivity and technological innovation. According to statistics produced by the joint coal board, average output per man shift increased by 10.9 per cent to 20.33 tonnes in the last financial year.

Iron ore producers are happier these days, having got over a bad patch a year ago caused by a substantial price reduction. Increased efficiency and an improvement in industrial relations are partly responsible for the buoyant mood but the industry remains vulnerable to trends in Japan, far and away its main customer.

Aluminium is expected to be badly affected by overproduction in 1986. The glut will only get deeper with the scheduled opening of a new smelter project in Portland, Victoria, with a capacity for 180,000 tonnes a year.

Other base metals are not thought likely to show any significant change. Predictions are for a slight upswing in demand for copper and a cutback in nickel production.

The Amic survey says a point of great concern is a decline of 14 per cent in

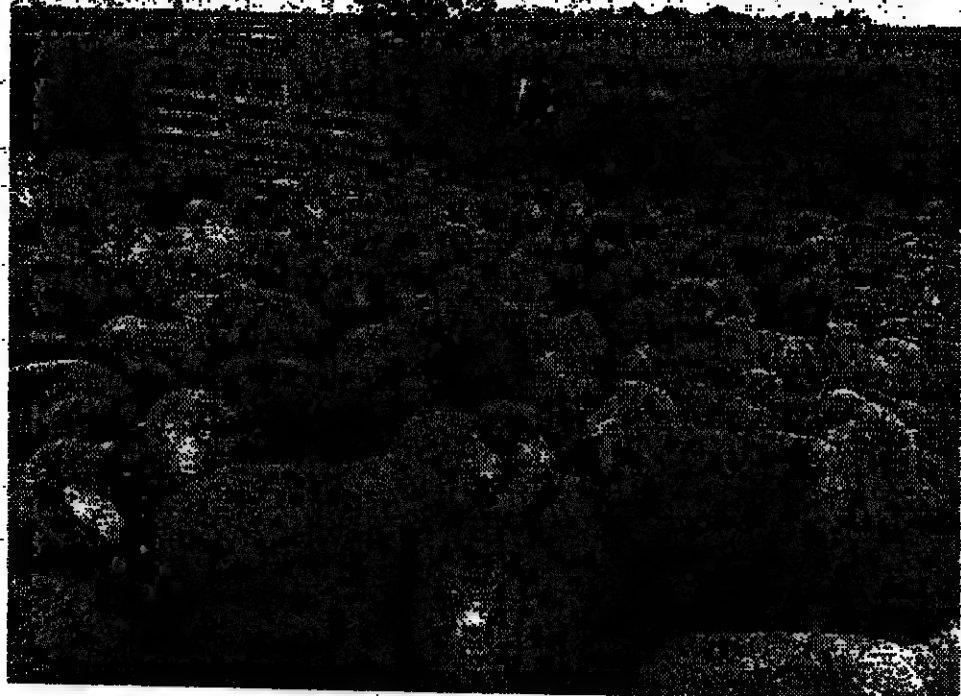
exploration investment to \$A218 million. The long-term viability of the industry, it adds, depends on the discovery of new reserves which can be developed at low cost.

The past five years of low profits have also slowed up new investment programmes. No large-scale new projects were begun in the 1984-85 year, and most new investment was on gold, of which Australia is only the fifth largest western producer and which accounts for 2.1 per cent of total mineral production.

The survey also points to what it describes as a significant trend emerging in recent years. In 1979-80, when profits were running at acceptable levels, income tax represented about 64 per cent of total company taxes. A range of new levies or increases in statutory charges has since been introduced, however, and while tax is sensitive to fluctuations in profitability, these government charges are not. By 1984-85 income tax accounted for only 45 per cent of company taxes.

Another long-term concern of the mining companies is possible legislation limiting their access to resources, in particular the question of Aboriginal land rights.

Stephen Taylor



A Merino flock: The picture looks much better for Australia's sheep farmers

## The anxious farmers

As the National Agricultural Outlook conference in January made plain, the rural sector does not fit into the broadly optimistic economic canvas viewed from Canberra. Agriculture, which still contributes something of the order of 40 per cent to export earnings, is in trouble, and all the prognoses suggest 1986 is going to make matters substantially worse.

It would probably be mistaken to read too much at this stage into the emergence of a new militancy among producers, which has given rise to angry demonstrations in the capital and threats to blockade agricultural exports. But the mood among Australia's 176,000 farmers is bitter at the continuing erosion of rural living standards and in many cases despairing of any foreseeable improvement.

Two statistics give some indication of the extent of the problem. The first is that the real net value of rural production, which is the profit reaped by producers after all costs and inflation have been taken into account, is expected to fall by a quarter in 1985/86. The second is that the average return for each working member on family farms, which produce about eight per cent of agricultural output, is now projected at AS3,700 (£1,850), or half the level of the 1960s.

The latest quarterly review of the rural economy, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, contains another grim figure. Return on invested capital in 1985/86 is expected to be minus six per cent, compared with 1.5 per cent last year and 4.8 per cent the year before.

It is estimated that the average family farm income this year will be about \$A7,000, while 35 per cent will have a negative income. Australia is among the world's leading producers and exporters of wheat, wool, and meat. It also has substantial dairy, sugar, coarse grain, rice, fruit and fishery industries.

To deal with the lesser first world dairy prices have been falling since 1982, and the expectation is that local producers will continue to face strong competition on a depressed international market for the next few years.

Few Australian sugar producers are likely to be in a position to benefit from a limited world price increase because of a bad growing season in Queensland which was topped off earlier this year by a crop-ravaging cyclone.

rice production is up in most Asian consumer nations and prices are at their lowest relative level since the war: strong potential for fruit and vegetable producers has not yet been realized, because of poor marketing against the trend, the fishing outlook is for a continued improvement.

The chief area of concern for 1986 is the wheat industry. The value of the 1985/86 crop has been revised upwards to \$A2,920m as a result of new indicators, but is still 12 per cent down on 1984-85. According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the most likely value of the crop being sowed this year will show an even greater drop, to \$A2,530m, a decline of nearly 20 per cent in real terms.

The picture is brighter for both wool and meat, which are expected to increase in terms of gross production value by four per cent, and seven per cent respectively, while in export terms they are expected to increase in value by 10 per cent and 11 per cent.

For most of these broadly gloomy figures there is so far as the agricultural establishment is concerned, one fundamental cause - subsidies on produce from the European community and now the United States. The real villain of the piece is seen to be the EEC's Common Agricultural

Policy, which is estimated by the BAE to be costing Australia about \$500m in lost exports per annum.

The proposed US Farm Bill provoked some heavy broadsides to start with but it is seen as a partly justifiable response to the CAP. And since John Dawkins, the trade minister, was assured on a visit to Washington last month that the administration was out to nudge the Europeans and "would" take steps to avoid hurting Australia in its legitimate markets, the full attention of Canberra's resentment has turned back to Brussels.

While the government is not unnaturally keen to see the CAP take the blame for the rural crisis, producers believe Canberra could be doing a great deal more to help them through their difficulties.

Inflation is roughly double that of Australia's competitors and means rising costs to run with declining prices. While last year's decline in the value of the dollar was of some benefit, the effect was also to increase fertilizer and fuel prices. The prices and wages accord is proving harmful to the rural sector and the Na-

tional Farmers' Federation says that centralized wage fixing has to be made more flexible.

Another area in which the NFF and producers are demanding government action is on high interest rates, which are adding to the rural burden in the form of increased debt-servicing costs.

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## Fast new life in the Cinderella state

South Australia has tended to be seen as a Cinderella among Australian states, lacking the confidence of New South Wales and Victoria with their large populations and politico-economic influence, or of Western Australia and Queensland, with their huge new mineral wealth. However, as it approaches the 150th anniversary of its foundation, it has plenty to celebrate.

South Australia differs from the other states in that it was founded not as a penal settlement but as territory which was settled freely and developed initially by a private company. Proclaimed a colony by Captain John Hindmarsh, the newly-arrived governor, on December 28, 1836, it became a Crown Colony in 1841 and was given its own Constitution and self-government in 1856.

It has a reputation for being progressive and stable. In 1894 it extended the vote to women and in 1936 introduced the referendum as a means of obtaining a verdict on important issues. In the

1960s and 1970s it led the way in social reform, legalizing homosexuality and abolishing censorship and capital punishment and, more recently, it has been to the fore in granting Aboriginal land rights.

In his book, *The Australian Dilemma*, Bruce Grant writes that South Australia has "a social rhythm that is deliberately steady and a vision that tries to see life as a whole".

These qualities have not prevented South Australia from feeling something of a backwater, however, and in recent years it has tried under its Labor premier, John Bannon, to project a more dynamic image in order to attract investment and tourism. Its greatest coup was to acquire the final race in the World Formula One Championship last year.

On November 3 more than 100,000 people, 40,000 of them from outside the state, attended the Adelaide Grand Prix and millions more

around the world watched it on television. It was voted the best run race of the season by the competing teams and is estimated to have brought between \$A40 million and \$A50 million (£20 million and £25 million) into the local economy.

This year's race, on October 26, will be one of the main events of the sesquicentenary celebrations. Among the others are a four-day visit by the Queen and Prince Philip, which begins on Saturday, and the World Three Day Event Championships from May 22-25 at Gawler, north of Adelaide, the first time they have been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

As well as hosting the Grand Prix, Adelaide has acquired a casino. This is housed in the magnificent old railway station in the middle of the city and is the first stage of a \$A220 million development which includes a con-

### Dynamic image to attract investment

vention centre with seating for 4,000 and a 400-room hotel. Racing cars and gambling are in danger of eclipsing the biennial Festival of Arts which, since it started in 1960, has been perhaps the single most important factor in putting Adelaide on the map.

"The festival injected life into a place which had a boring reputation as a city of churches", one of the organizers said. "Now Adelaide has two fabulous new mistresses in the Grand Prix and the casino and perhaps it is the festival which is becoming boring."

Among the highlights of the 1986 festival, which opened last Saturday, is the world premiere of *Foss*, an opera by the Australian composer Richard Meale based on the novel by Patrick White. In 1988, when Australia celebrates its bicentenary, Lord Harewood will direct the festival.

The quality of life is something which the government hopes will attract outside investment, particularly in high

technology. Just north of the capital it has opened a technology park offering office space to hi-tech companies which are starting up. Among its tenants are Austek, which was formed in 1984 and makes high-end VLSI custom chips, and Vision Systems, which has evolved a computerized surveillance technique involving the digital processing of television images at a very high speed.

Disposable Products Australia, one of the country's largest makers of biotechnology and medical products, is to set up an R&D complex at the park and British Aerospace Australia is building a new headquarters there.

South Australia sees its strengths as being in micro-electronics, biotechnology, mining technology and defence work. More than half of the federal government's defence research is carried out at Salisbury, north of Adelaide. The atom bomb tests which have been the subject of a recent Royal Commission took place in the interior of the state at Maralinga and in the 1950s and there is the famous rocket range at Woomera.

With this experience the state is hoping that it will win a \$A2,600 million contract to build replacements for the Australian navy's Oberon-class submarines. The project would provide thousands of jobs and revitalize the state's engineering sector.

In the primary sector South Australia has enormous reserves of oil and gas in the Cooper Basin in the north east, which are expected to earn about \$A900 million a year when in full production. Mining of uranium, copper and gold is due to begin at Roxby Downs in the second half of 1988, having been delayed because of political controversy over the uranium.

Annual output is expected to be 1,900-2,000 tonnes of yellow cake (uranium concentrate), 30,000-50,000 tonnes of copper and 90,000 fine oz of gold. Tony Palmer of Western Mining, which is exploiting the site with BP, said Roxby was probably the largest uranium deposit in the world and would do for the South Australian economy what Broken Hill had for New South Wales or Mount Isa for Queensland.

SSP

## This beautiful empty country

*In the land of Lord-knows-where, Right up and furthest out, You'll find a new Australia there.*

*That we know nought about!*

Forty years ago I lay in my swag one night on the treeless Barkly Tableland in the Northern Territory, listening to the bells and the hobble chains on our horses. I could hear the Aboriginal stockmen riding around the cattle we had mustered that day. The Aborigines were singing softly, quietening the cattle.

I looked up into the immense black sky, which came right down to the horizon, all around me, and I remembered the words of the old bush poem. They were true in those days.

Australians knew very little about their vast Northern Territory, which is five times the size of Great Britain. They were uneasy about it, close to Asia, empty, undefended. But they couldn't afford to develop and populate such remote frontier country.

Now it is different, because Australia is richer. However, Northern Territory is still empty, with fewer than 150,000 residents (one-quarter of them Aboriginal). It is as if the population of Brighton were scattered throughout five Britains. Since 1978 the Territory has had a form of self-government and, if it gets a good financial settlement from the Commonwealth government, it would like to become a state in the 1988 bicentenary year.

Much will depend on negotiations between Darwin and Canberra, which now gives the Territory 80 per cent of its budget revenue. So the Chief Minister, Ian Tuxworth, appointed last year a special Minister for Constitutional Development, Jim Robertson.

The drive for statehood explains the Country Liberal Party government's heavy spending to prepare the Territory's economy for its new, independent status. Mr Tuxworth has boldly underwritten much of the private capital investment in an ambitious tourist industry. The Sheraton group runs luxury



The face of an Aborigine: Waiting for change

hotels in Alice Springs and near Ayers Rock, and in August it will open a hotel in Darwin. Each town also has a casino.

The result is more than 500,000 tourists a year and revenue worth \$A250 million (about £125 million). However, most tourists are Australian, finding their "new Australia", and they don't stay in the half-empty Sheratons. But the Territory Tourist Commission has opened offices in London, Los Angeles, Singapore, Frankfurt and Tokyo, and foreigners are finding their way.

A Territory Development Corporation offers incentives to industry, and Mr Tuxworth

### More than 500,000 tourists a year

hopes to establish a free trade zone because, he says, "we live on the brink of the South-East Asian/Western Pacific region, the fastest growing economic bloc in the world".

In the meantime, it must rely on manufacturing worth \$A350 million a year, primary production worth \$A100 million and minerals worth \$A750 million. Mr Tuxworth, son of a mining engineer, has his eye on mining.

However, the Commonwealth (federal) government is still responsible for most of the areas which affect mining, such as national parks, Aborigines, uranium production and royalties. This frustrates the Chief Minister, as he contemplates the huge uran-

um mines in lovely Kakadu National Park, on the edge of Arnhem Land. He is also frustrated by the power of Aborigines to control all mining on their land, which comprises about 30 per cent of the Northern Territory.

Because the Territory Government is in a hurry and the Aborigines are not in a hurry (after so many years of dominating pressure from white Australians), there is ill-feeling between Mr Tuxworth and Aboriginal leaders. The chairman of the Northern Land Council, Mr Galarway Yumpungu, and the manager of the Central Land Council, Mr Pat Dodson, also Aboriginal and a former priest, are determined to keep their statutory powers to negotiate with mining companies.

Because these Aboriginal councils need mining royalties to give their people capital and income, they do eventually make agreements. But they don't get deals signed as quickly (and cheaply) as the miners and Mr Tuxworth would like.

There are two ways to see the Territory's strange, beautiful and tough countryside. Expensively, as an air-conditioned tourist, sight-seeing and buffalo-shooting on safari. Or cheaply, with a sense of adventure, enjoying the straight, rough-and-readiness of white Territorians and the shy friendship of Aborigines. Talk to Aborigines in pubs, get yourself a swag and ask them to take you to their land.

Stewart Harris



### The best time to catch an Aussie with his pants down is while he's resting on his laurels.

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## TENNIS

## Jordan manages a victory over Navratilova at last

Oakland (Reuters) — The unseeded Kathy Jordan, set Martina Navratilova, the world No. 1, to her first defeat since the US Open last September to reach the final of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims Classic on Saturday.

Jordan's 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 victory took 2hr 16 min and was the first time in 13 meetings she had beaten Navratilova.

Lloyd, the second seed, struggled before overcoming Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, 7-5, 6-4 in a match lasting 1hr 45 min.

After her match with Navratilova, Jordan said: "I feel pretty good. I feel unbelievable. It is hard to describe. Jordan, who earlier in the tournament had knocked out Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, the third seed, admitted to being a little apprehensive going into the match.

"I was nervous, but not real bad because I had everything to

gain and I had to look on it as an opportunity to beat the number one player in the world. I came to the realization that what was the worst that could happen? I could lose, but it is no disgrace to lose to somebody like Martina.

Jordan and Lloyd were due to meet in the final yesterday.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Lloyd (US) vs H Sukova (CZ) 7-5, 6-4; N Jordan (US) vs Martina Navratilova (CZ) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6; M Lloyd (US) vs C Reynolds (US) 6-3, 6-4; H Mandlikova (CZ) vs B Hargreaves (GB) 6-3, 6-4; H Sukova (CZ) vs T Burgin (US) and R Farman (GB) 6-4, 6-1.

● OAKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Marcella Mesker, of the Netherlands, the fifth seed, defeated Candy Reynolds, 6-3, 6-1, in the semi-finals of a Virginia Slims tournament on Saturday.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: M Mesker (Neth.) vs C Reynolds (US) 6-3, 6-1; M Lloyd (US) vs H Sukova (CZ) 7-5, 6-4; N Jordan (US) vs Martina Navratilova (CZ) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6.

## SKIING



Lisa Savijarvi, of Canada, speeding to her first World Cup win in the super-giant slalom

## Savijarvi's Petrovic out on his own Cup win

Furuno (AP) — Canada's Lisa Savijarvi of Canada claimed her first World Cup victory yesterday when she won the women's super-giant slalom in this northern Japanese ski resort. Savijarvi, who started 34th, covered the 1,834-metre Furuno course with 37 gates and a drop of 445 metres in a time of one minute 20.43 seconds.

Sigfrid Winkler, of Austria, came in second in 1:21.04. About 23,500 spectators watched the competition in central Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. Pam Ann Fletcher, of the United States, who started 42nd, finished in a surprising 11th place in 1:21.09, only 0.05 seconds behind Winkler.

After the competition, Savijarvi said, "The hill was in good shape. I've been training very hard, aiming at winning today's race. I was a later starter and the track was fast but it was good for me."

Fletcher said, "I just could not believe it. It was my best time in my career. The snow condition was fast and rough for the later starters but I skied well. I'm happy."

● SUPER-GIANT SLALOM: 1. L Savijarvi (Can) 1:20.43; 2. S Winkler (Austria) 1:21.04; 3. P Fletcher (US) 1:21.09; 4. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.10; 5. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.11; 6. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.12; 7. J Burgin (US) 1:21.13; 8. R Farman (GB) 1:21.14; 9. T Burgin (US) 1:21.15; 10. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.16; 11. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.17; 12. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.18; 13. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.19; 14. N Jordan (US) 1:21.20; 15. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.21; 16. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.22; 17. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.23; 18. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.24; 19. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.25; 20. N Jordan (US) 1:21.26; 21. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.27; 22. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.28; 23. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.29; 24. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.30; 25. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.31; 26. N Jordan (US) 1:21.32; 27. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.33; 28. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.34; 29. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.35; 30. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.36; 31. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.37; 32. N Jordan (US) 1:21.38; 33. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.39; 34. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.40; 35. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.41; 36. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.42; 37. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.43; 38. N Jordan (US) 1:21.44; 39. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.45; 40. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.46; 41. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.47; 42. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.48; 43. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.49; 44. N Jordan (US) 1:21.50; 45. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.51; 46. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.52; 47. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.53; 48. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.54; 49. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.55; 50. N Jordan (US) 1:21.56; 51. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.57; 52. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.58; 53. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.59; 54. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.60; 55. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.61; 56. N Jordan (US) 1:21.62; 57. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.63; 58. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.64; 59. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.65; 60. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.66; 61. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.67; 62. N Jordan (US) 1:21.68; 63. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.69; 64. M Mesker (Neth) 1:21.70; 65. C Reynolds (US) 1:21.71; 66. H Sukova (CZ) 1:21.72; 67. M Lloyd (US) 1:21.73; 68. N Jordan (US) 1:21.74; 69. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:21.75; 70. 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C Reynolds (US) 1:23.81; 276. H Sukova (CZ) 1:23.82; 277. M Lloyd (US) 1:23.83; 278. N Jordan (US) 1:23.84; 279. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:23.85; 280. M Mesker (Neth) 1:23.86; 281. C Reynolds (US) 1:23.87; 282. H Sukova (CZ) 1:23.88; 283. M Lloyd (US) 1:23.89; 284. N Jordan (US) 1:23.90; 285. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:23.91; 286. M Mesker (Neth) 1:23.92; 287. C Reynolds (US) 1:23.93; 288. H Sukova (CZ) 1:23.94; 289. M Lloyd (US) 1:23.95; 290. N Jordan (US) 1:23.96; 291. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:23.97; 292. M Mesker (Neth) 1:23.98; 293. C Reynolds (US) 1:23.99; 294. H Sukova (CZ) 1:24.00; 295. M Lloyd (US) 1:24.01; 296. N Jordan (US) 1:24.02; 297. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:24.03; 298. M Mesker (Neth) 1:24.04; 299. C Reynolds (US) 1:24.05; 300. H Sukova (CZ) 1:24.06; 301. M Lloyd (US) 1:24.07; 302. N Jordan (US) 1:24.08; 303. H Mandlikova (CZ) 1:24.09; 304. M Mesker (Neth) 1:24.10; 305. C Reynolds (US) 1:24.11; 306. H Sukova (CZ) 1:24.12; 307. M Lloyd (US) 1:24.13; 308. N Jordan (US) 1:24.14; 309. 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## Thatcher attacked by Heath over BL

By Philip Webster  
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday faced renewed criticism from within her own party as Mr Edward Heath attacked her attitude to the British Leyland sale and Mr Michael Heseltine fired another salvo at the Government's approach to industry.

Mr Heath, the former Prime Minister, pointedly refused in a television interview to endorse Mrs Thatcher to lead the Conservatives into the next election.

Asked if he hoped she would be at the head of the Conservative's election battle, he said: "We must allow things to be decided by the party."

He said that many people believed that the Government had already tied up the deal with General Motors and that the March 4 deadline was "a deadline being imposed against British would-be purchasers".

The talks with General Motors had been going on for a year, yet British firms were being given only three weeks.

He said on TV-am that the British people would be "horrified" if the deal went ahead.

Meanwhile Mr Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, called for a new enhanced industry department with power and influence to rival that of the Treasury.

"For too long, and for historical reasons, the Treasury has dominated the industrial policies of this country," he said on the London Weekend television programme *Weekend World*. Calling for a strengthened partnership between government and industry, Mr Heseltine said that all capitalist economies and governments were totally immersed in helping their industry. "I have a feeling we try to pretend that it is other than it is," he said.

Mr Heseltine admitted that his proposals would be unpopular with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He called for a new Cabinet committee, chaired by a senior government member, to co-ordinate the Government's broad industrial policies.

## Business as usual for Moscow



While Soviet rulers deliberated in the Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin (report, page 5), it was business as usual for the citizens of Moscow, queuing for vodka (above) and going to the Bolshoi Theatre, below.



## Frauds 'involved' £400m in bullion

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Gold bullion handled by major City dealers, including Johnson Matthey Bankers, and worth a total of more than £400 million has been involved in serious VAT frauds detected by investigators over the past five years.

Since 1981 Customs investigators have brought a series of frauds to court and revealed total VAT losses of more than £60 million, a spokesman for Customs said yesterday.

This represents gold transactions worth more than £400 million but the full picture of VAT gold frauds is likely to be much larger.

The Customs spokesman was unable to comment on a report suggesting the full loss to the Exchequer could be as high as £500 million representing transactions involving gold worth £3 billion.

The report in *The Observer* suggested that JMB had been the largest dealer in gold transactions.

JMB and other dealers have

often been caught in the middle of frauds, paying VAT to vendors who have then failed to pay the tax to the Customs and have tried to vanish.

On Saturday the latest Customs investigation into allegations of VAT gold fraud resulted in nine men appearing in court charged with conspiracy to fraudulently evade VAT between July 1983 and the end of February.

The men were arrested after Customs investigators had examined records of gold transactions at JMB offices in London.

Eight of the men from London and the Midlands, were remanded on bail and one was remanded in custody. None of the accused is an employee of JMB.

The Customs investigation is separate from a police inquiry into the affairs of JMB by 30 detectives from the City and Scotland Yard fraud teams

## Village Voice

## Postmaster shown the error of his ways

This week Victor Zorza tells how the people of a Himalayan village took the law into their own hands when a postmaster embezzled money and delivered their own judgement, perhaps more just and certainly more effective than the sentences of city courts.

Only one village family did not have to depend for its food on its own crops and on the vagaries of the weather. If the rains came at the wrong time the other households might suffer, but the postmaster's family could always rely on his salary - or so it thought.

When his illness proved more serious than had at first appeared, his wife tried to cope with the paperwork, but she had neither education nor aptitude for figures. Yet when he died the village expected officials to let her keep the job. They did, although it meant that the post office could barely function. No one wanted to deprive the widow of her living. The village looks after its own.

The primitive post office, distinguished from other huts only by a box containing stamps and account books, had made the village unique in the neighbourhood. The postmaster had served all the other villages in the area, managed the mail, and handled the remittances sent by the few villagers who had gone to the plains in search of work.

The supervisor from town agreed to train the widow's teenage son, Chuni. The cheerful, obliging boy, always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed help, proved an apt pupil. When the official visited the village, they worked late into the night, helping themselves to home-brewed liquor.

By the time they finished they were usually splendidly drunk and singing, ready

The supervisor offered them sympathy, but no reparation. "Scotch is running yourselves," he insisted. If they did not, the boy would go to prison, the post office would be transferred, and the community would lose face.

They suspected that his advice was designed to hush up the theft. He must be trying to protect himself and his superiors with whom he would have shared the bribes, they said.

But they acknowledged that Chuni was the village's responsibility. He was only a boy. They didn't want to see his life ruined - provided he paid it all back. The supervisor urged Chuni to let the family land and pay up, but no one ever disposes of his fields unless he is pushed to the wall. He refused.

One day Chuni was summoned to town. Nobody knew what transpired. Some villagers believed that officials anxious to conceal their own complicity had convinced

## Treated Chuni again as one of themselves

him that he alone would be held responsible and might spend the rest of his life in jail. He begged the village's forgiveness, sold some land, and began to make payments.

The village wiped the slate clean. Chuni was accepted back into the community without recrimination, almost with a sense of relief. "Aren't you taking a risk?" I asked the villagers. Could they really trust Chuni after what happened?

There was no risk, they assured me. They had demonstrated to him the error of his ways and he had shown his contrition. Soon the villagers were again treating Chuni as one of themselves, as if nothing had ever happened.

I could not understand it. Someone capable of plundering the community so systematically, for so long, I thought, did not become a reformed character overnight. A village elder tried to enlighten me. He had heard of the law and order problem in the cities, of the grim penalties imposed on lawbreakers. He didn't think much of the way the cities coped.

"If Chuni were your son," he said, "wouldn't you have forgiven?" The village was a family; Chuni was its child. In the city, the boy might have gone astray again. In the village, never.

"How, I asked, could they be sure?" "Because," he explained with a disarming smile, "we'll be watching every step he makes, for ever - and he knows it." The village, he said, didn't trust the law and must look after its own.

In more ways than one.

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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

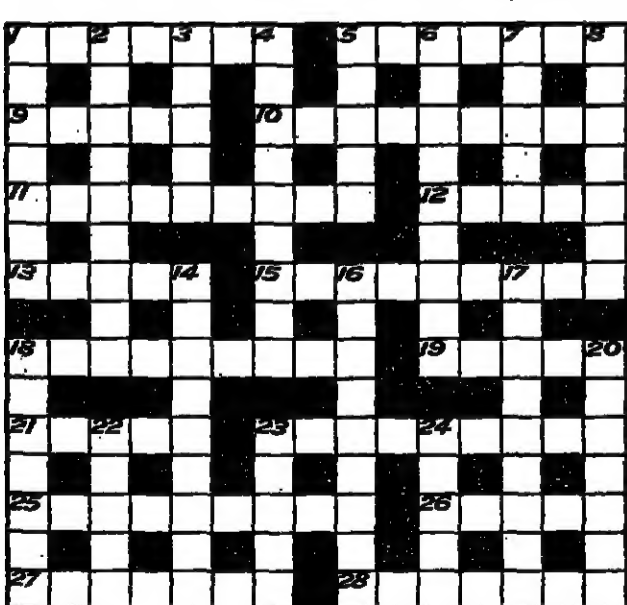
### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition at Earls Court, 3.  
The Princess of Wales visits the Adair Unit at Whitchurch Hospital, Park Road, Cardiff, 11.10; later attends a reception at Cardiff City Hall to mark the launch of the Lifetime Wales Campaign of the Wales Research Unit of the Wales Foundation, 12.10.  
Princess Anne opens the Save the Children Fund Shop at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 11.05; visits the Midland Railway

Trust Station at Ripley, Derbyshire, 11.55; lunches at Ikeson Park, Derbyshire, 12.45; visits the Charnois factory in celebration of their Golden Jubilee, 2.35; later opens the new Design Block at Trent College, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, 3.15; and visits Birkin's Lake Factory in Borrowash, 4.10.  
The Duchess of Gloucester attends a Gala Dinner and Fashion Show in aid of London's blind at the Intercontinental Hotel, London, 7.45.

**Music**  
Recital by Helen Rees (recorder) and Annette Richards (harpichord): works by Bach.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,983



**ACROSS**  
1 The brave man confined to bed will get a cigar (7).  
5 Give a talking-to, being direct (7).  
9 Trains the first mate, note (5).  
10 A tip Robin Hood put to good use (9).  
11 Prepared to play (9).  
12 Bet or back like a king (5).  
13 Invigorating drink (5).  
15 Not even a partisan (9).  
18 They raise no objection when a fool comes in (9).  
19 Building quarters within a high rock (5).  
21 Lie about strength of character (5).  
23 Waving an account due to be paid (9).  
25 A restaurant with musicians beside a lake (9).  
26 A word of consolation offered by the serving men (5).  
27 Make much of general disorder (7).  
28 Locks where a boat may be seen in wooded surroundings (7).

**DOWN**  
1 Show an animal outside without cover (7).  
2 Hannibal's trumpeters (9).  
3 A letter carried by some gool-bird (5).  
4 A printer's error that's come to light (9).  
5 Help to keep in credit - sharp (5).  
6 Blunt expression of anti-conservatism (9).  
7 He opposes people in the old-fashioned retrogressive way (5).  
8 Depressed apprentice accepted by the German leather-worker (7).  
14 Scientific device becomes more unpenetrable under study (9).  
16 Lies inert - not normally bouncy (9).  
17 "I am young ambition's ladder" (J. Caesar) (9).  
18 Obliging with a strongly musical story (7).  
20 Go back for the right issue (7).  
22 Battle cry grips the regiment (5).  
24 Move clumsily and obstruct turning for example (5).  
26 Bizarre route - quite bizarre (5).

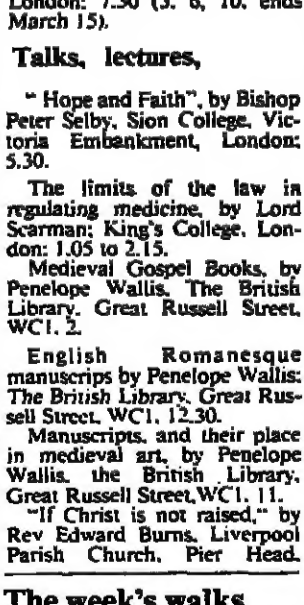
**The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,982 will appear next Saturday**

The Concise Crossword is on page 10

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**Music**  
Recital by Helen Rees (recorder) and Annette Richards (harpichord): works by Bach.

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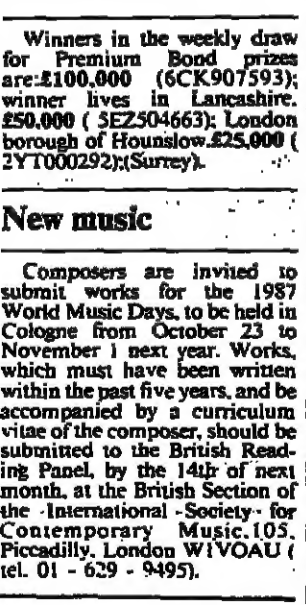
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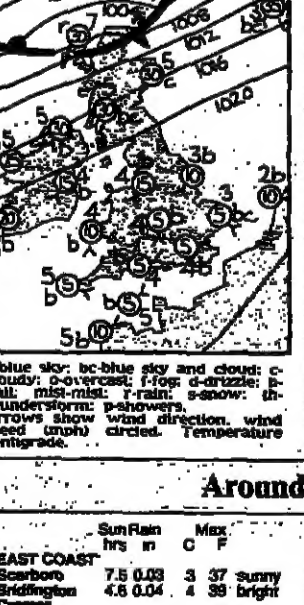
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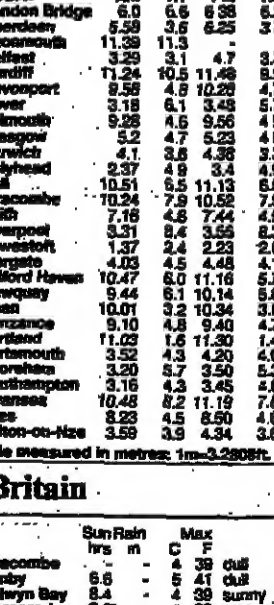
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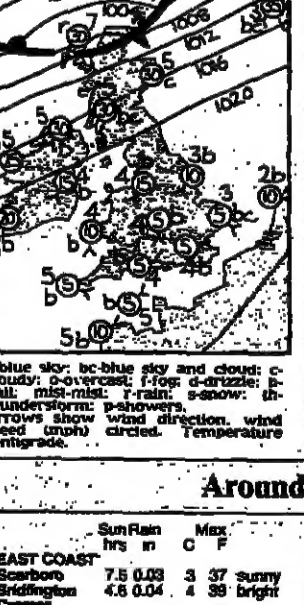
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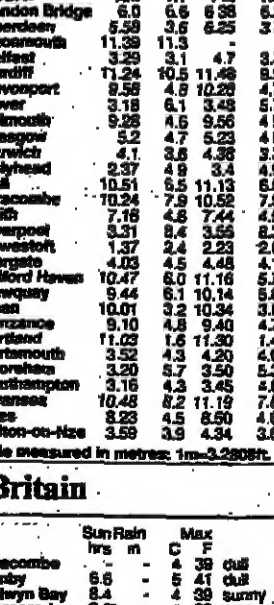
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